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Talks to end Lebanese crisis to be held today

FAIR weather with light to moderate
north-westerly wind.
State of sea: slight to moderate
High water: 11.45 am
Low water: 7.00 am, 6.30 pm
Sunrise: 6.34 am
Sunset: 5.41 pm
Maximum temperatures recorded:
Kuwait: 22°C 72°F
Ahmad: 19°C 66°F
Falaka: 19°C 66°F
Minimum temperatures recorded:
Kuwait: 7°C 45°F
Ahmad: 10°C 50°F
Falaka: 10°C 50°F
Maximum temperatures expected:
Kuwait: 20°C 68°F
Ahmad: 18°C 64°F
Falaka: 18°C 64°F
Maximum humidity recorded:
Kuwait: 83 per cent
Ahmad: 82 per cent
Falaka: 85 per cent

Shamir was speaking hours before the UN summit. "It is possible now to begin an initiative like this, with direct negotiations between us and the Arabs, I would support this," Shamir said. Shamir's proposals would be at the centre of talks due to be held in Cairo this week between Shevardnadze and Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Arens.

INTERNATIONAL

ARAB TIMES, MONDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 1990

Premadasa's top priority is to restore peace

Premier to be elected by secret ballot

COLOMBO, Feb. 19, (Reuters): Sri Lanka's new prime minister is likely to be picked this week in a secret ballot by newly elected members of the ruling United National Party (UNP), party sources said today.

President Ranasinghe Premadasa, whose party last week won the most violent elections in the island's history, can nominate the prime minister but has refrained from doing so.

He appointed a 21-member cabinet yesterday without naming a prime minister.

Premadasa's main priority is to restore peace on the island shattered by a leftist guerrilla campaign in the south and Tamil separatists in the north.

More than 400 people were killed in the campaign, including

40 during Wednesday's voting. The government blamed much of the election violence on leftist rebels.

Former National Security Minister Lalith Athulathudali and two other members of the new cabinet, Gamini Dissanayake and Sirisena Cooray, all are in the race for the premiership.

Athulathudali, 52, has staked his claim to the job on the ground that he received the highest number of votes among all candidates.

Perception
"In the public perception the person who received the highest number of votes will be seen to be the prime minister," the island newspaper quoted him as saying. His supporters have inserted

full-page advertisements in newspapers publicising the fact that he got more votes than others.

Party sources said the current thinking was that UNP Members of Parliament should decide who should get the job. But they said Premadasa still had the option to name his own man.

Political analysts said Premadasa clearly did not want to get directly involved in choosing a prime minister as it could make other aspirants unhappy.

Image
Political analyst Hector Abheywardene said: "He doesn't want to involve himself in career conflicts. He is acting very shrewdly."

"If we were to nominate someone, two or three aspirants will be against him," he added.

Abheywardene said Premadasa wanted total command over the party and it was necessary for him to create an image that he was above personal affiliations.

He said it would not prevent him from quietly helping the candidate he wanted as his prime minister.

Premadasa indicated on Saturday that he wanted a hard-working cabinet.

After a swearing-in ceremony, he told the ministers they must not travel overseas without his permission, and added: "I will judge you solely on performance and quality of service to the people. You will appreciate that any minister failing in his performance cannot expect to continue to hold office."

BA begins to check passengers' radios

LONDON, Feb. 19, (AP): British Airways has begun inspecting passengers' electronic and electrical equipment following the announcement that explosives hidden in a radio-cassette player blew up Pan Am flight 103.

In another development, the Department of Transport said it was testing a US-made scanner that can detect plastic explosives of the kind believed to have been used in the downing of the Pan Am jet. The department denied a report today in the weekly Mail that the instrument already was in use at London's Heathrow airport.

"As it uses neutrons, we have to make sure it is absolutely safe," a spokesman said of the computer scanner. The newspaper report said two similar computers were successfully tested at Los Angeles and San Francisco airports.

Examine
British Airways, Britain's biggest airline, was acting on a Department of Transport recommendation that all airlines using British airports examine

radios, computers and other electronic or electrical equipment for possible explosives.

A department spokesman said the suggestion was sent to airlines on Friday and is aimed mainly at battery-operated transistor radios, lap-top computers and cassette recorders in which explosives can be easily hidden, rather than smaller items such as hair dryers.

An airline spokesman said British Airways started asking passengers to take all electrical and electronic equipment out of their suitcases for a separate security check, and, when the items were cleared, to carry aboard as hand baggage.

No major delays were reported because of the increased security.

Delayed
But in Atlanta, the takeoff of a British Airways flight to London was delayed for more than five hours last night by a bomb threat.

British Airways officials halted flight 226 minutes before its scheduled 6:15 p.m. (1115 GMT) departure after an unidentified man called the airline's New York office and told officials there was a bomb aboard the DC-10, said John W. Lample, the airline's director of public affairs in the United States.

Lample said no explosives were found in a 5-hour search and the aircraft carrying 122 passengers left Hartsfield Atlanta international airport for London's Gatwick airport at 11:41 p.m. (1641 GMT).

Some community leaders have alleged that Asvat, shot dead at point-blank range in his clinic, had seen the 14-year-old boy after he was beaten.

Haasbroek refused to give any further information about the two people arrested in connection with Asvat's death, except that they would be arraigned tomorrow, probably in the Soweto magistrate's court.

While Winnie went out about her normal daily routine in the house, police searched her belongings but did not take any of them, said a journalist at the scene.

Joubert, who directed the search, also is heading the investigation of the doctors' death and the disappearance of two young Soweto men last seen in the company of the bodyguards in November.

Resign
Major anti-apartheid leaders in South Africa condemned Winnie last Thursday, accusing her of complicity in the abduction and assault of 14-year-old Stompie Sepele, and saying he would be alive if the bodyguards, known as the Mandela United Soccer Team, had not abducted him from a church residence. The leaders said that the team, a creation of Winnie, had waged a "reign of terror" in Soweto.

The Rev. Frank Chikane, general secretary of the South African Council of Churches, said yesterday that Winnie had decided to remove the young men from her home "so that perceptions around the family can be cleared up." It was unclear whether they had been moved by the time the raid took place.

The executive of the African National Congress issued a softer rebuke yesterday, saying Winnie had made mistakes and failed to listen to the counsel of black community leaders.

The South African Press Association reported that laughter, talking, and Nat King Cole music could be heard coming from inside the house while black and white uniformed officers conducted their search, piling clothing and blankets on the lawn. More than 20 policemen with rifles surrounded and guarded the house.

Winnie, smiling and cheerful, came out to greet newsmen and offered them refreshments. She made no comments when the raid ended. Her secretary said she was resting.

Questioned
City Press, a twice-weekly national black newspaper, said today it had interviewed Winnie during the week and that she had said her husband told her not to make public comments.

Police also impounded Winnie's van and a 30-seat bus used by the soccer team. City Press reported that police had questioned Winnie's driver, John Morgan, 61.

City press quoted Morgan as saying he drove the bus when Stompie and three men were taken from the Methodist church residence on Dec. 29. But, he said, he told police they appeared to come willingly and that he saw no assault.

The three men have given affidavits to their attorneys saying Winnie was involved in the events on the night they were allegedly abducted and assaulted.

Bush confident of NATO unity
WASHINGTON, Feb. 19, (Reuters): President Bush yesterday issued an upbeat assessment of NATO unity, despite a US dispute with West Germany over modernising short-range missiles, after talking with Secretary of State James Baker.

Baker, who returned on Friday from an eight-day tour of 15 North Atlantic Treaty Organisation member capitals, reviewed by telephone with Bush several issues that he had discussed with the allies, the White House said.

"The President expressed his conviction that NATO unity is strong and his confidence that the allies will move together in addressing the major questions of international stability," White House spokesman Marlin Fitzwater said in a statement.

Baker expressed confidence to reporters as he flew back to Washington from Paris on Friday the missile row would be settled by the time NATO leaders meet in May and he disputed reports the issue had caused a major rift between Washington and Bonn.

The United States and Britain had been pressing NATO for a quick decision on updating the

Four detained, blood traces found

Police raid Winnie Mandela's home

JOHANNESBURG, Feb. 19, (AP): Police said today they detained at least four men, found traces of blood and took fingerprints from the Soweto home of black activist Winnie Mandela after an eight-hour search.

"We have found fingerprints and blood samples. These will be tested in our laboratory," said Maj.-Gen. Jaap Joubert, who is heading the investigation into the death of a 14-year-old black activist who allegedly was abducted and beaten at the house before his body, with the throat slit, was found dumped in Soweto.

Police also took bags of clothes belonging to Winnie's bodyguards, and police spokesman Col L.J. Haasbroek said objects taken from the house were "possibly bloodstained."

Spokesmen initially said a few young men who stay at the house were taken away after the raid at 4 a.m. (0200 GMT). Police later confirmed at least four were detained at Winnie's home but gave no other details.

The South African Press Association said documents, whips, sticks, clubs and clothing which appeared to have been splattered with blood were taken from the back rooms at the one-storey, brick, ranch-style home where Winnie has been living since her former home was burned in July by students in a battle with her bodyguards.

Arrested
The former home, which Winnie's husband, African National Congress leader Nelson Mandela, has rented since the 1940s, has been repaired but she has not moved back in.

Haasbroek also announced that two people had been arrested in connection with the murder of Dr. Abu Baker Asvat of Soweto, who was killed in January on the day news reports of the abduction and beating first appeared. Haasbroek refused to say whether they were among the four detained at her house.

Some community leaders have alleged that Asvat, shot dead at point-blank range in his clinic, had seen the 14-year-old boy after he was beaten.

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But shortly before Baker arrived in Europe, West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl said NATO could postpone a decision on the missiles until 1991-1992.

The White House statement, which did not specifically refer to the missile dispute, also said European leaders told Baker "their countries are firmly committed to the alliance as the key to the continent's past and future security."

38 killed in floods in Peru
LIMA, Feb. 19, (Reuters): At least 38 people were killed and dozens missing after two rivers burst their banks in Peru's central jungle area, destroying several hamlets, authorities said yesterday.

Press reports put the death toll at more than 50 and said hundreds were missing in the rushing waters of the River Gera but a local government official reported only 38 fatalities.

"We have only had reports on 38 people killed and another 20 are listed as missing," Absalon Tuesta told Reuters by phone from Tarapoto, 400 miles (700 km) northeast of Lima. He did not give a figure for those missing in the floods caused by torrential rains.

Helicopters were carrying food and blankets as roads have been washed out by the Rivers Gera and Indochi, which burst their banks on Friday.

Missing
Press reports said floodwaters from the River Gera smashed into the hamlets of Shushuyacu and Nuevo San Miguel. In Lima, civil defence chief General Jorge Ferreyros reported 12 people killed in Shushuyacu.

Press reports said many of the 3,000 residents were missing.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Polish polls

WARSAW, Feb. 19, (UPI): Solidarity agreed yesterday to parliamentary elections that would guarantee a majority for the ruling government coalition, but the still-outlawed union opposed a proposal giving the nation's leader increased powers.

Under the drafted electoral plan presented to Solidarity by communist official Kazimierz Cyprian, the government coalition of the Communist, Democratic and Peasant parties would retain about 60 per cent of seats in the parliament. Opposition parties only would hold the remaining 40 per cent.

"The authorities say that elections will not be democratic 100 per cent and we approved this principle," Janusz Onyszkiewicz, a spokesman for Solidarity, said at a news conference following the second round of debates with the government on political reforms.

Balloonist rescued
YOKOHAMA, Feb. 19, (UPI): A fishing boat rescued a Japanese adventurer yesterday from the ocean where he had ditched his gondola after failing to complete the first solo trans-Atlantic balloon crossing. Japanese and US officials said.

Fumio Niwa, who embarked on Tuesday on a 4,970-mile (8,000-km) trip from Yokohama to San Diego, landed his "Toss Pacific" balloon in the ocean about 425 miles (680 km) east of Miami-Tori Shima (southern island), one-third of the way towards his goal. Japanese officials said.

76 Pakistanis held
MOGADISHU, Feb. 19, (Reuters): The Somali Navy has detained 76 Pakistanis and their four fishing vessels for operating illegally in Somali territorial waters, the official Somali news agency announced today.

It said the incident occurred on Thursday when the Navy seized eight tonnes of fish after intercepting the boats near Adula.

A further 12 fishing vessels were chased out of the same area by the Navy, the report added.

Earthquake
TOKYO, Feb. 19, (AP): A strong earthquake struck central and northern Japan tonight, shaking tall buildings and rattling windows in downtown Tokyo. No deaths or injuries were immediately reported, the National Police Agency said.

The quake, which occurred at 9:28 p.m. (1228 GMT), measured 5.6 on the Richter scale and was centred 60 miles (96 kilometres) north of Tokyo in the town of Utsunomiya, the meteorological agency said. The quake shook all of northern Honshu, Japan's main island, the agency said.

Bodies recovered
PUCHONG, Malaysia, Feb. 19, (Reuters): The charred bodies of four American crew members of a US Boeing 747 cargo plane which crashed into a Malaysian hill on Sunday were recovered by a local search team.

Selangor state police chief Datuk Nordin Idris said he believed there was a fifth person on board the aircraft which crashed about 12 miles (18 km) from the capital Kuala Lumpur.

Ethnic tension
MOSCOW, Feb. 19, (Reuters): Armenians are still leaving their homes in Azerbaijan as ethnic tension persists in the two Soviet republics, the military newspaper Krasnaya Zvezda reported today.

By last week, 166,000 refugees had arrived in Armenia from Azerbaijan, the newspaper said.

It said there were also many curfew violations in the capital, Yerevan, and other Armenian cities where Soviet troops were sent last year as tensions exploded into violence, while Armenian dissidents were continuing "hidden agitation."

Presumed dead
HOOK OF HOLLAND, Netherlands, Feb. 19, (AP): Five Danish fishermen were missing and presumed dead yesterday after their trawler collided with a British oil tanker on the North Sea, a Dutch Coast Guard spokesman said.

Four Dutch rescue boats and a Dutch Navy helicopter found nothing but some wreckage, a small oil spill and an empty life raft of the Danish-registered trawler, Hanne Gasberg, said spokesman Cees van Dijk.

Duke wins seat in Louisiana House

METairie, Louisiana, Feb. 19, (UPI): Former Ku Klux Klan leader David Duke, running against the opposition of the White House, the national Republican establishment and virtually every political leader in his district, won election yesterday to the Louisiana House of Representatives.

"We won. It's a new day for Louisiana. It's a new day for the country," exclaimed Duke who had waited at the Jefferson parish courthouse for the results of the emotional campaign.

Duke immediately headed to his election night headquarters where several hundred people were celebrating.

With all 35 precincts counted, including one for absentee ballots, Duke won with 8,456 votes, or 51 per cent of the total, to opponent John Treen's 8,232.

The 224-vote margin of victory was far closer than Duke had predicted on the eve of the election.

Enjoyed
Running as a newly registered Republican, Duke beat the longtime Republican Treen. The brother-of-former-Gov.-Dave Treen, John Treen had enjoyed the endorsements of Ronald Reagan, President Bush, the National Republican Party, and most local political leaders, Democrat and Republican.

The victory did not mark the end of Duke's struggle, however. Louisiana House sources said before the election there would be a move to prevent Duke from taking his seat if he won. That

battle would begin as early as Wednesday, when the legislature is scheduled to meet in special session to deal with tax issues.

The prospect of a Duke victory was embarrassing to the Republican national committee which, under its new chairman Lee Atwater, is attempting to attract more blacks to the party. The Republican Party, with the help of President Bush and former President Reagan, campaigned for Treen.

Election officials said the highly emotional contest generated an unprecedented 82 per cent turnout.

More than 300 exuberant Duke supporters gathered at the Metairie Lions Club, taunting reporters and declaring victory before the polls had closed.

Thrust
"Basically it will probably be David Duke. We have a power thrust here, where other people want to tell you what to think," said Robert McNamara. "I



Former Ku Klux Klan leader David Duke waves to supporters after winning a seat to the Louisiana House of Representatives. (Reuters wirephoto)

resent people telling me what to do."

Outside, an elderly man yelled at youths bearing Treen signs across the street. "Go home, nigger lovers."

Treen cast his ballot at a schoolhouse precinct, and Duke met with friends at a golf club before voting at a precinct in a neighbourhood house.

"Well, we won," Duke said as he emerged from the voting booth.

Duke said he would not be stopped by the endorsements of Treen by Bush, Reagan, virtually all of the state's congressional delegation, the Jefferson parish legislative delegation and most parish elected officials.

"I think a lot of people here are independent. I know this district. Mr. Reagan doesn't, nor does Mr. Bush," said Duke, who left the Ku Klux Klan in 1979 to form and direct the National Association for the Advancement of White People.

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COSMETICS & PERFUMS

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Malaysian police officers inspect the scene of the crash of a Boeing 747 cargo plane. (Reuters wirephoto)

Polisario vows to resume desert warfare

RABAT, Feb. 19, (Reuters): Polisario guerrillas have threatened to resume their war with Morocco over the Western Sahara unless King Hassan meets them again within 10 days.

In a statement teleaxed to Reuters last night, Bachir Mustapha Sayed, a member of Polisario's executive committee, said:

"There is no doubt that if by the end of February the dialogue remains interrupted and prospects of peace are stalled, the battles will resume."

Polisario declared a ceasefire this month, saying it wished to smooth the way for formation of a Maghreb union. The union between Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Libya and Mauritania was proclaimed in Marrakesh last week.

Sayed and other Polisario leaders held a first round of direct talks with King Hassan in early January. It was to be followed by a second session which the guerrilla movement says has been postponed indefinitely at Morocco's request.

Five die as Boeing crashes in Malaysia

KUALA LUMPUR, Feb. 19, (UPI): A US-owned Boeing 747 cargo plane crashed into a hill today while attempting to land at Subang international airport, killing five American crew members, officials said.

The Flying Tiger Line Inc. aircraft burst into flames about seven miles (11 km) from the Malaysian capital of Kuala Lumpur and wreckage was strewn over a wide area, a civil aviation official said.

Four of the crewmembers' bodies have been recovered and search teams were looking for the fifth, the official said, adding that the dead were Americans.

"Rescue operations are underway. A full complement of fire engines, ambulances and rescue workers are at the scene of the disaster," the official said.

The official said "the jungle-clad hill crash site did not hinder rescue operations."

A farmer Chooi Joon Hong said he was tending to his fruit trees at the hill slopes when he heard an explosion early this morning.

'Enemies of freedom' asked to choose war or peace

Aquino offers talks to rebels

BAGUIO, Philippines, Feb. 19, (Reuters): President Corazon Aquino, asserting her government was stronger than it appeared, offered today new talks to end armed divisions within the Philippines but said she was ready to fight if they failed.

Speaking almost three years after the "people power" revolt which swept her into office, she said national reconciliation remained a dream but the country had its best prospects for peace in a quarter of a century.

Aquino said that in the three years since a popularly backed military revolt toppled former President Ferdinand Marcos, her government had reversed the country's descent towards economic collapse, political disintegration and social revolution.

It had started to build a new future and it was important to heal the wounds so that deep divisions would not be carried forward to the next generation, she said.

Speaking to graduates of the Philippine Military Academy, near Baguio, 200 km north of

Manila, she said she was ready for new talks with both the armed right and the communist insurgents.

"To the enemies of freedom, the armed opponents of our government on the left and the right, I address these words: let us sit down and try to settle our differences by talk, and if we cannot, by all means, let us do so by arms."

"But let us not infect the next generation in civil society and in the armed forces with narrow causes and partisan hatred from the past."

Aquino held peace talks with communist rebels in 1986 but ordered resumption of war against them after negotiations collapsed.

The 56-year-old President, who has survived five coup attempts, said she was stronger than she looked.

"This country, this government and this leader have more strength than appearances suggest."

"It is the character of democracy to look weak. It is the fate of its vanquished enemies to

feel its strength."

Aquino has rejected requests to help heal divisions with supporters of Marcos by allowing him to return from exile.

"Those who made the revolution may never see reconciliation completed." "For some, the wounds have been too deep to ever heal completely."

"Yet we cannot give up."

Appeal

She appealed to the 113 new graduates not to be led into supporting Marcos or right-wing dissidents within the military.

"Those who sapped the strength of this country will ask you to join them in exploiting its weaknesses. Ignore them," she said.

She said all future generations of Philippine military officers would live in the shadow of the 1986 people power revolt and should guard its objectives.

"You have my orders. You know the enemy: The communist terrorist in city and barrio (village), the right-wing conspirator in our military camps and the lawless elements who seek to deny unity to our country."

"Fight them wherever they

appear and threaten our people, our work, what we are striving to make of this country."

"The battle field is everywhere. That is the nature of the threat..."

Security at the academy was tight for Aquino's visit. Four people were killed in March 1987 when a bomb exploded there a few days before she was also to address graduates. She had said the bomb was aimed at her.

On Saturday, a fire which police said might have been started by arsonists razed the 98-room Venus Park View Hotel in Baguio where many military officers and their families were staying. No one was injured.

Fire Marshall Colonel Arsenio Cabading said authorities were looking for two Australian women in whose room the fire broke out but who were out of the hotel when it started.

Military forces on the main Luzon island, including the Philippine capital, were placed beginning Thursday on red alert — the maximum state of preparedness — for Aquino's trip to Baguio.

Police raid exhibition of nude paintings

BEIJING, Feb. 19, (Reuters): Chinese police have raided a controversial exhibition of nude paintings influenced by Tibetan Buddhism and shown to a shocked Beijing public, artists said today.

A security van with flashing lights rushed to the Beijing artists' gallery last night. Uniformed policemen confiscated six paintings and questioned artist Cao Yong about their content, a witness said.

The exhibition had been on show to the public for five days and was being packed up when the police arrived.

The raid followed the closure of several nude photographic exhibitions in the eastern city of Nanjing recently.

Artists said the authorities wanted to put the brakes on a new wave of artistic freedom which is taking China by storm.

Earlier yesterday officials from the legal department of Beijing's cultural office visited Cao's exhibition to tell him that members of the public had complained about his work.

Pose

One painting shows a heap of naked women below Buddhist monk-like figures and another depicts a woman dragging two men by their genitalia out of a fire.

Friends said Cao — a 26-year-old ethnic Han Chinese — had spent a lot of time in Tibet and, despite impressions to the contrary, was very sympathetic to the Himalayan region's culture and religion.

"The authorities are still not sure of the dividing line between art and pornography in China," said one avant-garde artist.

EEC set to tighten control on chemical arms

BRUSSELS, Feb. 19, (Reuters): The European Economic Community is expected tomorrow to tighten export controls on chemicals used to make arms.

Diplomats said foreign ministers, at a Brussels meeting, are likely to approve the initiative, following a plea from West German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher for urgent action at EEC level.

The Bonn government has been deeply embarrassed by the recent revelation that West German firms helped Libya build a factory that the United States and other countries say is equipped to make chemical weapons.

Libya says the plant will produce pharmaceuticals. EEC foreign ministers agreed in principle at an informal meeting in Madrid last week that the 12 EEC states would require exporters to seek licences before being allowed to sell abroad eight chemicals used to make arms.

Diplomats said officials had since finalised details of the measure, which was not approved when it was first proposed in 1984.

EEC states already operate chemical export controls under a wider international agreement set up in 1985. Diplomats said the latest move amounted to a slight tightening of existing procedures.

"What has happened this year has shown more rigorous enforcement is needed," said one diplomat.

Christian leaders seek to enforce truce in East Beirut

BEIRUT, Feb. 19, (Reuters): Christian leaders seeking to avert a major confrontation between militiamen and regular Army troops can hardly achieve a long-term truce, political sources say.

A committee of 25 Christian deputies and leaders of political parties met last night at the Christian Maronite Patriarchate in north-east Beirut to discuss efforts to mediate between the Lebanese Forces (LF) militia and the Lebanese Army.

"The maximum this committee can achieve is to freeze the tension and avert a devastating war in Christian areas. The wounds are too deep to be healed in a short period of time," said a former Christian minister.

At least 57 people were killed and 130 wounded in fierce fighting between the LF and Army troops loyal to Major-General Michel Aoun, who also heads a military interim government.

"Now all what we seek is to consolidate the ceasefire and bring back peace to the people... our hope is great," one of the committee members said after meeting Aoun for two hours.

Aoun, whose troops fought with the 12,000-strong LF over the control of Christian East Beirut, rejected church mediation and threatened to crush the LF unless it met his demands.

Aoun told the leftist As-Safir newspaper "either our proposals are carried out quickly and peacefully within a certain deadline or there will be a final and decisive showdown."

On Friday, Aoun said the LF must leave Beirut, stop levying taxes and close down its so-called National Development Council (NDC) involved in education, economic and industrial projects.

Maronite Patriarch Butros Sfeir mediated a truce between

the rival forces on Friday which stipulated the withdrawal of LF militiamen from the streets to allow the Army to take control.

LF sources said it withdrew all its forces from the streets. Sources close to Aoun said he was ready to withdraw his troops from positions which would not endanger the Army.

Military sources said the LF, whose leader Samir Geagea said he was ready to make concessions for peace with the Army, was reinforcing its positions in East Beirut with men, weapons and ammunition.

In the meantime, residents took advantage of the lull to repair their devastated houses and rush to supermarkets to buy food in case the fighting erupted again.

Scores of people demonstrated in battleground areas some supporting the LF and others the Army.

Order to kill Rushdie amounts to murder

NICOSIA, Feb. 19, (AP): An Iranian newspaper said that the order to execute British novelist Salman Rushdie and the price put on his head amounted to murder.

The official Islamic Republic News Agency, monitored in Nicosia, said the Persian daily Ettela'at wrote that "to pay one man to kill another man is murder at a premium and not a religiously-inspired act."

Iranian leader Ayatollah Khomeini issued a fatwa, or religious ruling on Tuesday, saying that Rushdie should be killed because his novel The Satanic Verses blasphemed Islam.

The IRNA report also said that Rushdie's apology "though far too short of a repentance, is generally seen as sufficient enough to warrant his pardon by the masses in Iran and elsewhere in the world."

Earlier reports by the government-run agency said Rushdie's statement fell short of the apology demanded by President Ali Khamenei during a Friday prayer sermon.

The IRNA report did not mention Khomeini's decision directly. But the article was an unusual challenge to actions by Iran's religious leaders based on a Khomeini ruling.

Death

Another Tehran newspaper said today that even after being pardoned by Iran, Rushdie may be killed by either Israeli or Iraqi agents, in an move to blacken Iran.

Iran's Islamic Republic News Agency said yesterday that Rushdie's apology might be enough to gain him a pardon from Khomeini who ordered him executed.

IRNA quoted the English-language daily Tehran newspaper Keyhan International as saying in an editorial that "President Khamenei did seem to let Rushdie off the hook."

It added that "Rushdie, often characterised as arrogant, took the opportunity to lament and say 'through his agent, I profoundly regret the distress the publication of the book has occasioned to sincere followers of Islam.'"

Tokyo prepares to hold world's biggest funeral

TOKYO, Feb. 19, (UPI): The vanguard of 150 foreign envoys attending this week's funeral of Emperor Hirohito began arriving in Tokyo today for rites that will not only throw the spotlight on the mighty economic superpower but also set the stage for a whirlwind of diplomatic activity.

Billed as the biggest funerals of all time in terms of diplomatic representation, US President Bush heads a cast of 55 world leaders, 19 deputy heads of state, 11 prime ministers, 14 royals and other envoys who will spend only a fraction of their time on Friday's funeral.

Last-minute preparations are being made for a flurry of mini-summits between leaders of various nations on topics ranging from peace moves in the Middle East and Afghanistan to the

debt crisis in Latin America and Africa. Foreign Ministry sources said that President Bush, arriving on Thursday on a trip that will take him later to China and South Korea, has tentatively scheduled meetings with King Hussein of Jordan and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak on the US role in resolving the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Busiest

Bush has talks lined up with French President Francois Mitterrand and West German President Richard von Weizsaecker to preview July's summit of seven industrialised democracies near Paris.

Japanese government sources said Bush is also planning possible talks with the Soviet and

Chinese delegations to the funeral. Prime Minister Noboru Takeuchi, as host, will be the busiest leader, conferring with 120 heads of state, prime ministers, foreign ministers and other envoys.

"Ten minutes is the average time for each guest," a Foreign Ministry official said.

The Japanese leader has scheduled longer meetings of 20 minutes each with Philippine President Corazon Aquino, Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto and Brazilian President Jose Sarney.

Takeshita, who became the first foreign leader to meet Bush after his inauguration earlier this month, has tentatively set aside one hour and 15 minutes on Thursday for the US leader, who is making his first overseas trip.

Algeria urged to adopt Islamic laws

ALGIERS, Feb. 19, (Reuters): Islamic fundamentalists have called for Algeria to switch to laws based on the Holy Quran under a proposed constitution being put to a referendum next Thursday.

In a statement carried by the official news agency APS, three leaders of the Courant Islamiste (Islamic trend) proposed the constitution establish that "Islam is the principal and only source of legislation (and) the Holy Quran is the source of the constitution."

Signed by Ahmed Sahnoun, Mahfoud Nahnah and El Mekki Abada, the statement released

last night said parts of the proposed constitution were positive.

But it added: "Algeria is a land of Islam and jihad and that since independence 'the principal values of the Algerian nation have been abandoned.'"

Tolerance

It called for sharia or Islamic law to regulate family affairs and said it was convinced President Chadli Benjedid had what it termed the necessary political courage to take the demands into consideration.

Political observers said this was probably the first time the

state-controlled Algerian media had published in full a statement by an opposition group. It appeared to presage tolerance of dissenting voices in what until now has been a one-party system.

The proposed new constitution makes Islam the state religion as before but the general tone is secular. It eliminates a previous clause which enshrined Algeria's "irreversible commitment to socialism."

One of its articles says "The right to create associations of a political nature is recognised." Analysts said this suggests that the one-party system will eventually be dropped.

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Paediatricians graduate

DR Abdul Razzak Al Yousef Abdul Razzak, Minister of Public Health, patronised the graduation ceremony of the 12th course for paediatricians last night, according to Dr Abdullah Al Rifai, General Secretary of the Medical Specialties Institute.

Rifai said that these courses will have positive influence on health services in Kuwait.

Thirty three doctors participated in the course (among them nine Kuwaitis) which began last February and lasted a year.

Workshop

In an interview with a local daily, Rifai said that the Medical Specialties Institute will, on March 13, celebrate the graduation of the first batches of internal, surgery and family doctors.

The institute yesterday organised a workshop on the role played by health research at the health services department.

Decision makers at the Ministry of Public Health need to be enlightened on the importance of health research and its applications in order to improve health services.

A number of professors from the UAE and Kuwait, Health Ministry assistant under-secretaries, health area directors and hospital directors will also participate in the workshop.

The workshop aims at enlightening participants in developing health administration.

English-teaching symposium held

THE Assistant Undersecretary for Planning and Development at the Ministry of Education Dr Rashed Al Hamad has reaffirmed the ministry's constant efforts to develop its English curricula.

Hamad said in an opening speech at the English-teaching symposium held in Kuwait in co-operation with the British publishers, Longmans, that the purpose of the symposium was to entertain views on the development of pedagogical means and curricula in the field of English language teaching.

Textbooks

He said that a special committee was formed two years ago to carry out specialist studies on the possibility and feasibility of developing teaching textbooks in Kuwait, derived on the latest patterns and experience in this field.

The symposium was attended by the director of the Training Centre and director of the Educational Research Centre.

Cleaners contracted

KUWAIT Municipality has contracted a local cleaning company to clean up the second area (Salamiya, Hawalli, Rumaythiya, Maidan Hawalli, Salwa, Nugra, Failaka and other islands), according to Naser Al Tuwai, an employee at the Cleanliness Department at the Municipality.

The contract costs about KD3.3 million and supervisors at the areas inspect the work and file daily reports, he said.

Tuwai added that the centres also remove scrap cars from roads and public squares. They have already removed 1025 cars since Jan 1, 1988 to Feb 2, 1989.

Jordan's premier in Syria

AMMAN, Feb 19, (Reuters): Jordanian Prime Minister Zeid Al Rifai left for Damascus today for talks with Syrian leaders, the state-run news agency Petra said.

It gave no reason for Rifai's previously unannounced trip, which follows the creation of a new Arab economic grouping which does not include Syria.

The Arab Co-operation Council (ACC) was proclaimed in Baghdad Thursday by leaders of Egypt, Iraq, Jordan and North Yemen.

Drug pedlars apprehended

SECURITY forces of the Criminal Investigation Department at Firdous area arrested seven persons on charges of trading and dealing in narcotics.

CID personnel arrested three of the accused inside a tent. The other three were apprehended after a hectic car chase.

The total of 20 kilos of hashish was recovered in the operation. Both the contraband and the accused have been referred to the authorities for investigation.

Official investigated

ON a complaint filed by a citizen, the assistant director of constructions department at Sulaybiyah area has been investigated by authorities of Kuwait Municipality for using his post to obtain personal benefits.

The official was shifted to another department and subsequently was relieved of his post. A loss of 15 days salary was also levied as a penalty.

Kuwait denies resumption of flights to Iran

KUWAIT, Feb 19, (KUNA): Kuwait today denied Iranian reports that Kuwait and Iran are discussing the resumption of air flights between them.

Director-General of the Civil Aviation Department Sheikh Jaber Mubarak Abdullah Al Ahmad announced in a press statement that the department categorically denies the report carried by the Iranian News Agency.

The agency had quoted Director of the Iranian Airlines office in Kuwait Hamad Reza Sheikh Imami as saying that Kuwait and Iran are discussing reopening air routes between them.



Sheikh Jaber Mubarak

He said that the department wishes to affirm that those reports are baseless.

Cabinet discusses Arab and international issues

KUWAIT, Feb 19, (KUNA): State Minister for Cabinet Affairs Rashed Al Rashed, stated following the Cabinet's regular weekly session under the chairmanship of HH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah that the Council of Ministers discussed a number of reports concerning Arab and international situations as well as political affairs.

"The council had followed with relief the positive atmosphere which prevailed in the Arab arena, represented by the positive results of the two Arab summits held recently in Baghdad and Marrakesh, giving birth to the Arab Co-operation Council, grouping Jordan, Iraq, Egypt and North Yemen and the 'Arab Maghreb Union' grouping Tunisia, Algeria, Libya, Morocco and Mauritania," Rashed said.

Success

On the occasion, he added the council expressed its sincere congratulations and best wishes of success for the Arab brothers on establishment of those two Arab groupings, which represent jointly with the Gulf Co-operation Council a strong foundation for the "Great Arab House."

The council also listened to a briefing from Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed on details of the second stage of endeavour of the

Arab League's Six-man committee on Lebanon, which concerns contacts and consultations with Lebanese Muslim and Christian spiritual leaders on ways of resolving the Lebanese crisis.

He indicated the council, in this regard, welcomed the Arab brothers in Kuwait, expressing confidence that they would reach a positive outcome to solve Lebanon's problems and restore its security, stability and independence.

Defence Minister Sheikh Nawaf Al Ahmad Al Sabah also informed the council on the outcome of his recent visit to Qatar, during which he held talks with Qatar's Crown Prince and Defence Minister Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al Thani aimed at fostering bilateral ties in defence fields.

Co-operation

The council was further informed by Oil Minister Sheikh Ali Al Khalifa Al Athbi on the results of his talks with Soviet Oil Industry Minister Vasily Dinkov, which dealt with ways of promoting bilateral co-operation in the various oil fields, particularly in the field of oil exploration.

Concluding, Rashed said the council discussed several other issues and was familiarised with reports on works of conferences and meetings which Kuwaiti official delegations had attended abroad.



Awadi (right) looks at one of the computers on display

Planning minister opens Info '89 Exhibition

By Lima Al Khalafawi

DR Abdul Rahman Al Awadi, the minister of planning yesterday opened Kuwait's 8th Info '89 Exhibition at Mishref International Fairground.

The exhibition focused on a complete range of computers, hard and software, and other related computer facilities for office automation were on display.

Display

A complete range of new computers were also introduced. Latest fax models from Xerox 7007 and 7017. The latest in heavy duty copiers totally automated with circulating document handler and one line finisher capable of 62 copies per minute was displayed in the form of the Xerox 1065.

A wide range of computer out-

put microfilms, computerised audio-visual systems, electronic projection systems incorporating software of great demand in Kuwait were also displayed.

Computer Business Solution provided solutions to various inherent operational problems faced by operators using computers.

The Ministry of Communications participated by displaying modern services such as telephones, facsimiles, modern digital exchanges and its new computerised systems to facilitate billing and collection of bills.

Electronic data processing systems were launched by Siemens AG.

Training systems offering highly cost effective packages for management, selling skills and computer-based training were also introduced.

The exhibition will last for five days ending Feb 23.

Two per cent of child deaths due to genetic disorders

THE head of the Genetic Diseases Centre Dr Sadiq Al Awadi has described genetics as one of the most vital sciences with great bearing on human life.

He said that out of every twenty cases admitted into hospitals, there was one child with genetic problems, and that two out of every 100 deaths among children were caused by genetic disorders, particularly foetal deformations.

Awadi pointed out that as many as 50 per cent of the total number of abortions were caused by genetic disorders affecting chromosomes.

She said during the various foetal development stages inside the womb, a number of genetic factors could lead to abnormal deformations, which might result in the death of the foetus in the womb in what is scientifically termed as natural selection, otherwise the child would be born with abnormalities.

Diets

She stressed the importance of guided diets for expectant mothers as this would reduce chances of spinal and head deformations, and warned against the serious effects of drugs on babies and how they could induce major foetal deformations.

3 British minehunters to return home after clearing sea lane

DUBAI, Feb 19, (Reuters): Three British minehunters will return home in eight days after clearing mines from the sea lane opposite the United Arab Emirates, a British Navy spokesman said today.

He said the three ships — Chiddingfold, Cottemore and Berkeley — would leave on Feb 27 after arriving 18 months ago to join Britain's armilla squadron of warships in the southern Gulf.

The Regional Organisation for the Protection of Marine Environment (ROPME) is due to meet in Kuwait that day to discuss the threat of mines in the Gulf.

The eight-nation group of Gulf littoral nations has been dis-

cussing ways to remove the mines sown during the eight-year war between Iran and Iraq.

Minehunters from several European navies, most of which have now gone, had been clearing the southern part of the Gulf. The US Navy is still searching the section north of Bahrain.

Most of the mines are near the coasts of Iran and Iraq and naval experts in the Gulf say there is little chance of clearing them properly unless Tehran and Baghdad pinpoint their positions.

The British spokesman said the remaining threat to shipping near the United Arab Emirates would be a rogue mine from the north slipped its moorings and drifted south.

Iraq, Jordan ratify new economic bloc agreement

BAGHDAD, Feb 19, (Reuters): The Iraqi leadership yesterday ratified the creation of a new economic bloc linking the country with Egypt, Jordan and North Yemen, Baghdad television said.

An agreement setting up the Arab Co-operation Council (ACC) was signed in Baghdad on Thursday by the heads of state of the four countries.

The television said Iraqi President Saddam Hussein signed the ratification document at a joint meeting of the Revolutionary Command Council, the ruling Baath Party regional leadership and the cabinet.

The grouping is intended to create an integrated market among the four countries, whose total population is 80 million.

Iraq's leadership also welcomed the creation of the Arab Maghreb Union in Marrakesh on Friday which groups Algeria, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco

and Tunisia, the television added.

In Amman, the Jordanian cabinet has endorsed ACC's founding document.

Meanwhile, King Hussein ordered yesterday the release of all administrative detainees as part of national festivities over the creation of the Arab Co-operation Council (ACC).

The state-run news agency Petra also said convicts who had served half their sentences would be freed and the jail terms of others would be halved.

A senior Jordanian official told Reuters that about 200 detainees, held for security reasons or for membership of banned parties, would benefit from the king's amnesty.

They would include more than 20 members of the Damascus-based radical Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) who were detained in January for trying to incite unrest in Jordan, he said.

KFAS praised for supporting Arab students

THE Minister of Higher Education, Dr Ali Shamlan, on behalf of the Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences (KFAS), received Dawood Al Saleh, head of Kuwait's branch of the International Establishment for Supporting Arab Students.

KFAS was praised by Saleh for the support provided to the establishment.

He said that the establishment aims at supporting professional

and technological education in the West Bank and Gaza Strip as well as other Arab states.

The valuable donation from KFAS helped establishments to offer opportunities to Palestinian students in the occupied territories to pursue their higher studies. The establishment covers the cost of 25 students who are studying for their master and doctorate degrees in foreign countries. The total costs amount to about \$250,000 a

Construction exhibition opens today

THE Public Works Minister Abdul Rahman Al Houti will open today the International Building, Engineering & Municipality Services Exhibition at the International Fairgrounds in Mishref.

The director of public relations at Kuwait International Fairs Company Saleh Harman said that the Public Works Ministry, Defence Ministry, and the Public Housing Authority will take part in the exhibition as well as 64 local and foreign commercial and industrial companies. The foreign companies are from Poland and West Germany.

He added that participating companies will display engineering schemes, consultations, designs and research and building materials at the exhibition. They will also display equipment and machines used in construction projects and in municipal services as well as air-conditioning systems.

The organisers of the exhibition began a big informational campaign through the local media to explain its activities and importance. Engineers taking part in the present 18th Arab Engineering Conference will visit the exhibition, he said.

Engineering conference

KUWAIT, Feb 19, (KUNA): The 18th Arab Engineering Conference, inaugurated yesterday by HH the Amir, today continued work and held three sessions at the Regency Hotel.

Several experts from Saudi Arabia and Iraq spoke of engineering education, in high technology and employing engineering consultative expertise.

Three other sessions were also held later in the day, during which experts from Kuwait and Iraq tackled engineering education and industry, Arab policies in dealing with modern technology and scientific research's role in achieving Arab engineering integration.

Kuwait's role in Mideast settlement hailed

MOSCOW, Feb 19, (KUNA): The Soviet Novosti News Agency yesterday praised Kuwait's policies, which made the country play an effective role in contemporary international relations.

In a commentary on Kuwait's National Day, Feb 25th, Novosti said "the current accomplishments and international reputation that this country enjoys, were the results of Kuwait's legitimate and independent practices in the economic and political fields."

It added the wise use of oil revenue, which the Kuwaitis made possible after a strong

struggle against monopoly of foreign companies, enabled them, during a short period of time, to execute major projects represented by establishing an industrial base, expanding the banking and commercial activities and developing education and culture.

Non-alignment

The agency affirmed that Kuwait's leadership depends, in its policies, on the principle of positive non-alignment and establishment of useful relations with the various world countries, on the belief that success of Kuwait's development will be

impossible without international peace and security.

It pointed out that Moscow highly values the great role which Kuwait plays on the regional level, its pursuit of a just settlement to the Mideast conflict and its generous assistance to people of the occupied Arab lands.

Concluding, Novosti said Kuwaitis, known as great and well-qualified navigators, able to sail their ships in the scheduled routes and under any weather conditions, now are sailing their country's ship wisely and firmly, overcoming all obstacles, toward its goals.

Brackish water supplied to network areas

BRACKISH water is supplied to all areas having water network facilities, according to Khaled Al Farhoud, Chief Engineer at the Ministry of Electricity and Water.

In an interview with a local daily, he said that Iraq will provide Kuwait with 500 million gallons of water from the Shatt Al Arab drinking and irrigation water. The drinking water will be purified and sterilized, he said.

Farhoud denied any plans of providing underground water to houses in Rawdhatin as the water is not currently suited for housing areas.

The ministry solved the problem of corrosion of water pipes, by specially treating drinking water, the official said.

Some housing areas are now supplied with this treated water and others will soon follow. The ministry has stipulated new specifications for materials and water pipes to be installed inside houses, Farhoud added.

Responsibility

He said that the ministry is not responsible for water reservoirs of buildings. Water reservoirs and their cleanliness are the landlords' responsibility. The ministry is only responsible for the supply of networks and related

matters. However, the ministry does not take cognisance of complaints regarding any changes in taste or smell of the water and investigates these complaints immediately.

The ministry will supply any building with fresh water, if its owner submits a demand and if the area has a network, he said.

The official added that 83 per cent of the gross water consumption is supplied by the ministry's network; although many buildings have the underground water network but their owners did not submit applications to provide such services, the official said.

Programme launched to eliminate illiteracy in the Arab world

AMMAN, Feb 19, (Reuters): UNESCO today started a programme to develop primary education and cut illiteracy in the Arab world where it has been estimated that more than half the men and two-third of the women are illiterate.

"This programme will not completely eliminate illiteracy, but we are aiming for a massive reduction," Frederico Mayor, director-general of the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), told a news conference.

He said UNESCO was asking Arab and international donors to help finance the programme, but did not set a funding target. "We consider every literate person a teacher and every place a school," said Mayor, ending a three-day visit to Jordan.

UNESCO says the programme is a response to what it calls a crucial cultural conflict affecting the Arab world, marked by a high illiteracy rate, widespread poverty and limited capacity to develop the resources of a population expected to reach 300 million by 2000.

The organisation estimated that illiteracy in the Arab world in 1985 was 30 per cent for males and 70 per cent for females.

It is creating a unit to offer technical assistance, training and advice to Arab countries as part of its drive to improve literacy and primary education.

UNESCO has named the project the Regional Programme for the Universalisation and Renewal of Primary Education and the Eradication of Illiteracy in the Arab states by the year 2000 (ARABUPEAL).

BAHRAIN DIGEST

Saudi agricultural company wins top farming award in Bahrain

A LEADING Saudi agricultural company has won the top farming award instituted by a major Bahrain-based Arab agricultural journal according to results revealed yesterday by the publishers Falcon Publishing.

Arab Supply & Trading Corporation won the Arab Farmer of the Year Award 1988, launched by Arab World Agribusiness (AWA) for the first time.

AWA in co-operation with FAO (Food & Agriculture Organisation) launched a unique scheme of awards to give due recognition to companies who have shown outstanding performance in agricultural development and promotion in oil aspects in the Arab countries. The AWA awards also include the Agricultural Marketing Award and Agricultural Technology Award as well as 8 certificates of merit under each major award category.

Pioneers

The top award in agricultural marketing was won by Public Authority for Marketing Products (PAMAP) from Oman, while Lindsay Intl. Sales Corporation from the USA won the Agricultural Technology Award 1988.

Kuwait's largest agricultural company, United Agricultural Production Company, won a certificate of merit for farming in an inter-Arab competition. The company was recognised for its 'pioneering work in farming using recycled water for irrigation.' Another Kuwaiti company, Burjan Agri-Food Industry Est, also won a certificate of merit in the category of agricultural technology for its 'creative aspects of farm marketing.'

According to Dr P.K. Pillai, managing editor of AWA, the awards scheme is the first of its kind in the region organised by an Arab agricultural journal of international standards. He said the scheme was envisaged almost two years ago and after considerable research and investigation it was announced in July 1988.

"We worked very hard to implement the awards as we felt they would give a major boost to the development and promotion of agriculture in the region. There is tremendous potential for agricultural growth in the Middle East in view of the availability of abundant underground water and the most sophisticated and advanced modern technology to exploit agri-business," said Dr Pillai in an interview with the Arab Times.

Incentive

Abdulnabi Al Sho'ala, chairman and managing director of Falcon Publishing, commented: "The awards will certainly provide an incentive to all those involved in agricultural activities in the region to achieve better results and increase food output in view of strong competition in the field. We feel honoured and delighted to be associated with the awards and hope they will become prestigious symbols in agriculture in the Arab world."

Saudi companies won a total of 11 awards in various categories, the most from a single country. Countries represented by other winners in the region include Kuwait, Oman, UAE and Yemen Arab Republic.

The AWA Committee is chaired by Salah Juma, assistant director-general/regional representative for the Near East, FAO. The selection committee include a number of Bahraini and other regional experts in agriculture, including the Vice-Chairman, Mohammed A. Al Mulla, secretary-general, Federation of Chambers of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture for Gulf countries.

AWA awards will be presented at a special function to be held on March 20 in Riyadh during the Saudi Agriculture 1989 Exhibition.

Communications Ministry develops telecommunication services

THE Ministry of Communications has announced that it will be executing a number of administrative and technical projects in line with a general plan prepared in 1988, which will among other things seek to develop its various telecommunication and postal services.

Part of the different projects are the new telecommunication building and tower, which is 147 metres in height and the establishment of new telephone exchange central in Ras Al Salamiya, by way of facilitating the supply of telephone subscriber services.

In 1988, the ministry inaugurated the new post office in Jahra, and another in Sabah Al Salem, bringing the total number of post offices in the country to 53.

It also increased the number of post office boxes to 36,700 over the existing 46 offices, and provided special stamps for philatelists.

The ministry had moreover mounted additional equipment to expedite the letter-sorting system and operated four new mail routes for express mail.

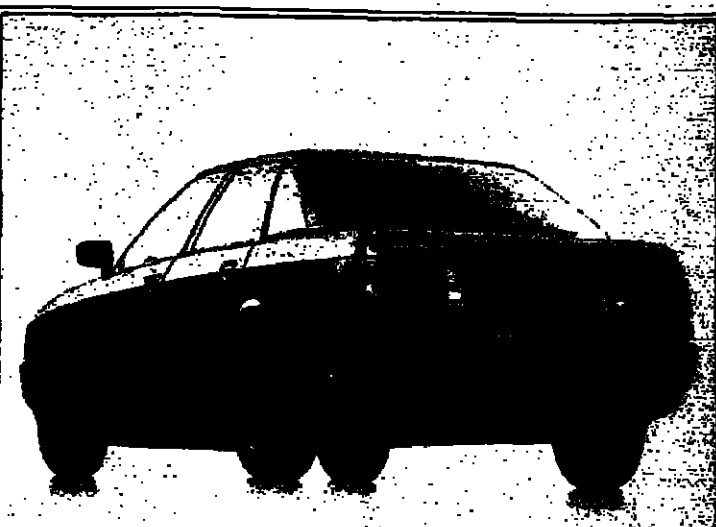
Ban on house calls by ministry physicians

THE Public Health Ministry Undersecretary Dr Nael Al Naqeb has banned home calls by ministry physicians, except in the case of old people, the disabled and women in the confines of their homes for legal purposes.

He said in an administrative circular to the directors of health areas that this ban applies to all doctors and staff at the ministry, and that it is meant to save the time wasted in house-calls and

the resulting dislocation of medical services at hospitals and health polyclinics.

He issued yet another circular banning doctors from calling at the house of patients with diabetes to administer insulin injections, or take blood samples, except in the case of old, disabled patients, as well as women staying indoors for legal reasons.



The new Audi 80 in Kuwait

AUDI AG Germany has always been recognised for setting examples in advanced technology.

The new fully galvanneal Audi 80, one of the most successful cars in Germany is now being introduced to the Kuwait market.

The Audi 80 offers one equipment that deserves special mention: Audi's award winning Procon-Ten safety system.

In a frontal collision above 25kph this device pulls the steering wheel forwards away from the driver, within a fraction of a second, and simultaneously pre-tensions the front seatbelts. This significantly reduces the injury risk for the front occupants if they use the seatbelts. With Procon-Ten the Audi owner can have a lot of extra safety, reasoning if the worst ever comes to the worst, which we hope it won't.

WHAT'S ON

ARTS

Young Artists Exhibition

UNTIL Feb 23: An exhibition of paintings and drawings by Kuwaiti artists in Kuwait will be held at the Dahiyat Abdullah Al Salem gallery. It will be open from 8 am to 12 noon and 4 to 8 pm.

Ghadir Gallery

UNTIL March 19: Recent paintings by British water colour artist Patricia Mills, will be shown at the Ghadir Gallery, Salhiya Complex, Mezzanine, Gate 5, daily from 9 am to 12 noon and 4 to 8.30 pm.

Sultan Gallery

FEB 21: An exhibition of paintings by Bangladeshi artist Mounirul Islam opens at the gallery, Thunayan Al Ghanim Bldg, Al Soor St. It will be open from 5 to 8 pm.

MUSIC

Piano Recital

FEB 22: Pianist Anthony Peebles will give a recital at the Kuwait International Hotel, Terrace Room. For reservations contact the hotel.

French Music Concert

FEB 20: French pianist Roselyne Masset-Lecocq and soprano Francoise Carre will present a selection of classical and contemporary music at a concert at the Meridien Hotel. Tickets available at Meridien Hotel, Business Centre, Voltaire Institute and French Cultural Centre.

EXHIBITIONS

Islamic Coins in Sweden

UNTIL Feb 23: An exhibition of Islamic Coins in Sweden open at the Dar Al Athar Al Islamia (Islamic Arts Museum); from 8 am to 12 noon and 4 to 7 pm.

Modern Kuwait

Feb 26 - March 8: The Kuwait University's Arts and Culture Department will hold a photographic exhibition on "Modern Kuwait" at the College of Commerce, Adeliya. It will be open on Feb 26 at 10 am.

Video films will be shown during the exhibition, which coincides with the Kuwait National Day celebration. The film schedule is as follows:

Feb 26 (10 am and 12 noon): Kuwait: The Road to Progress.

Feb 27 (9 am and 11 am): Kuwait: My Country.

Feb 28 (9 am and 11 am): Computers in Kuwait.

March 1 (9 am and 11 am): Development and the Future.

March 6 (9 am and 11 am): Kuwait: Highlights.

March 7 (9 am and 11 am): Kuwait: One Family.

March 8 (9 am and 11 am): Industrial Development in Kuwait.

The documentaries will be shown at the Arts and Culture Department, College of Commerce, Adeliya.

LECTURES

Vikings and Arabs

A series of lectures will be given by a visiting Swedish-Arabist Professor Bengt Knutson. The programme is as follows:

FEB 20 (6 pm): A talk on Arabic and Islamic Studies at Swedish Universities, Faculty Members Club.

FEB 21 (6 pm): A lecture on Swedish-Arabic Encounter and Poetry, Faculty Members Club.

SOCIAL

Bangladesh Martyr's Day

Feb 21: The Bangladesh Embassy in Kuwait will observe the Martyr's Day (Shahid Dibosh) from 9 am at the embassy premises in Jabriya. A week-long exhibition of Bengali books written by Bangladeshi writers will be opened by Ambassador K.M. Shehabuddin.

Feb 23 (6 pm): The Bangladesh Association will hold a discussion followed by a cultural programme to mark the Martyr's Day. All Bangladeshis are invited.

Dance Recital

FEB 22: Dr Padma Subramanyam, a noted dancer and scholar of Indian classical dance, will give a lecture at 7.30 pm. It will be followed by public reception. Only those holding an entry pass for any of the following dance shows will be allowed to attend.

Feb 23 (6.30 pm): Dr Padma Subramanyam will give a Bharata Natty (dance-ballet) recital.

Feb 25 (6 pm): Dr Padma will give a solo-recital called "Jataya Moksham," danced to Tchaikovsky's music.

The dance show is part of the Nehru Centenary celebration. Both performances and the lecture will be held at the IAC, Funatees. For entry passes contact 3904817.

INDIAN VIDEO ROUNDUP

African safari in a concrete jungle

By Fathima Ahmed

COULD it be an African safari — a trip across the wild, wild animal sanctuaries of Kenya? The opening sequence of K.C. Bokadia's *Main Tera Dushman* (I'm your Enemy) makes you believe it is, at least as long as the credits roll, dramatically interrupted with music, the beat of drums and the roar of lions. Maybe, it is about poaching. Maybe not.

If you trust the Hindi film-makers to come up with the weirdest ideas and plots, you'll never be disappointed. They let their imagination run wild — like the wild trees in the jungle and come up with such amazing feats performed both by man and beast that you are left guessing who is the more intelligent of them all. For example the elephant or Kishan (Jackie Shroff) in *Main Tera Dushman*.

Each moment makes you feel hopeless and you wonder: Is Jaya Prada a better actress or the Mother Elephant, who makes a dying statement (no peace even in death) and leaves her son, Ramu, in Jaya and Kishan's safe hands.

The mas-beta (mother-son) relationship in films always makes you weep, and when the same emotions are transferred to "mother" Jaya and son Ramu-the-elephant, the results are, to put it mildly, corny. *Ramu's tears never dry* and the watchful Jaya tells Ramu: "If you don't eat Ramu, we won't."

Ramu saves Jaya from a would-be-rapist's clutches. Now, if this doesn't amaze you,

Sridevi looks seductive in *Main Tera Dushman*.

wait for the best of them all: he is literate and can read. How else would he spot the Bombay sign on a bus and follow it. Perhaps, he made an elephant-like effort.

One barely got over the trauma of the "kutte ki meher-baniyan" — a dog's heroic performance in *Teri Meherban-iyon*. Remember the canine who drove a jeep and took

revenge for his master's murder? Now, Bokadia is back with a seedier theme; this time it is the elephant's turn.

Ramu is the hero, why else would he tend an ailing Jaya and help Jackie Shroff escape from jail.

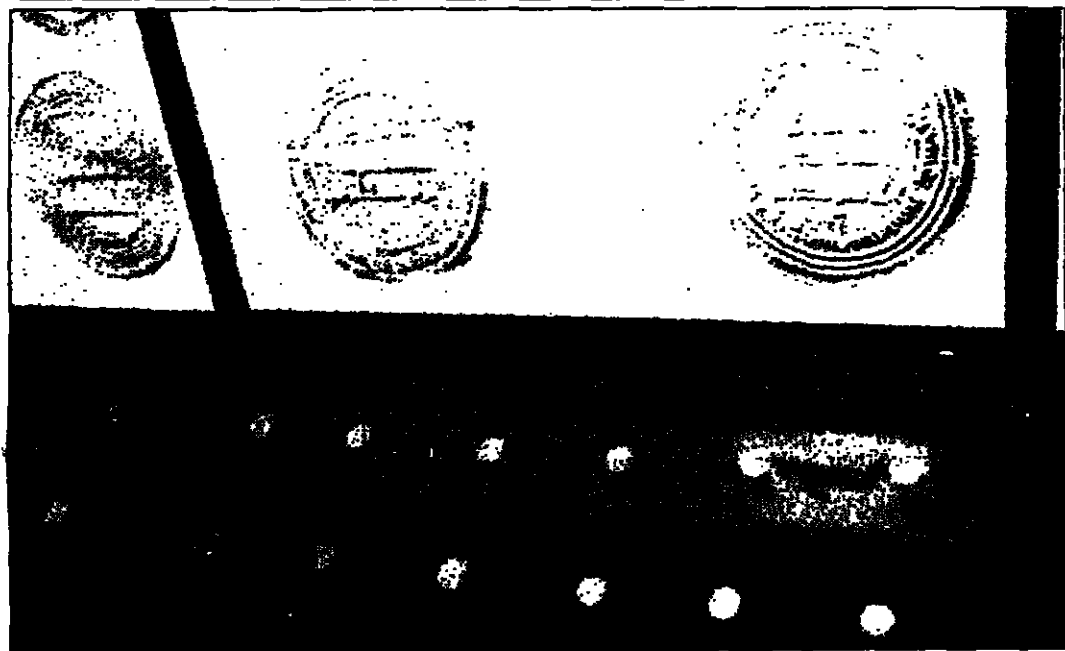
Why Jackie goes to jail is not difficult to work out. He is a forest officer, an honest one, who loves animals in the wild. Seih Dayalu (Anupam Kher) is a poacher. Mix the two and you have the tale of good vs evil.

For good measure, there is sizzling Sridevi, who is, according to a doctor, "mental case;" and Sunny Deol, who makes a brief appearance for a song and a kill. Direction is an art that most directors in Bombay have forgotten — people die before they are hit by bullets in Bokadia's film.

With trained animals to compete with, it seems only natural for the actors to take a back seat. Anupam Kher confines his performance to one line: "He who looks me in the eye — man or beast — dies." Jackie, frets and fumes as he gets in and out of jail. Jaya Prada competes with Mother Elephant on who can shed the most tears and Sridevi, well, she stuns with her "I'll stone you" act.

In the final analysis, I feel it would have been better to have been born an animal, I wouldn't have to watch Hindi films for a living. And moreover, they are smarter, and more humane, Ramu is.

The above film is by courtesy of Athari Video, Main St., Farwaniya, Tel: 4712900; and Falcon Video, Abbasiya.



Some of the Islamic coins in Sweden now on display at the Islamic Arts Museum.



Christian Dior's Spring/Summer collection — Simplicity — was launched on Saturday at a special presentation held at the Kuwait International Hotel. Picture shows a Dior representative speaking during the presentation.

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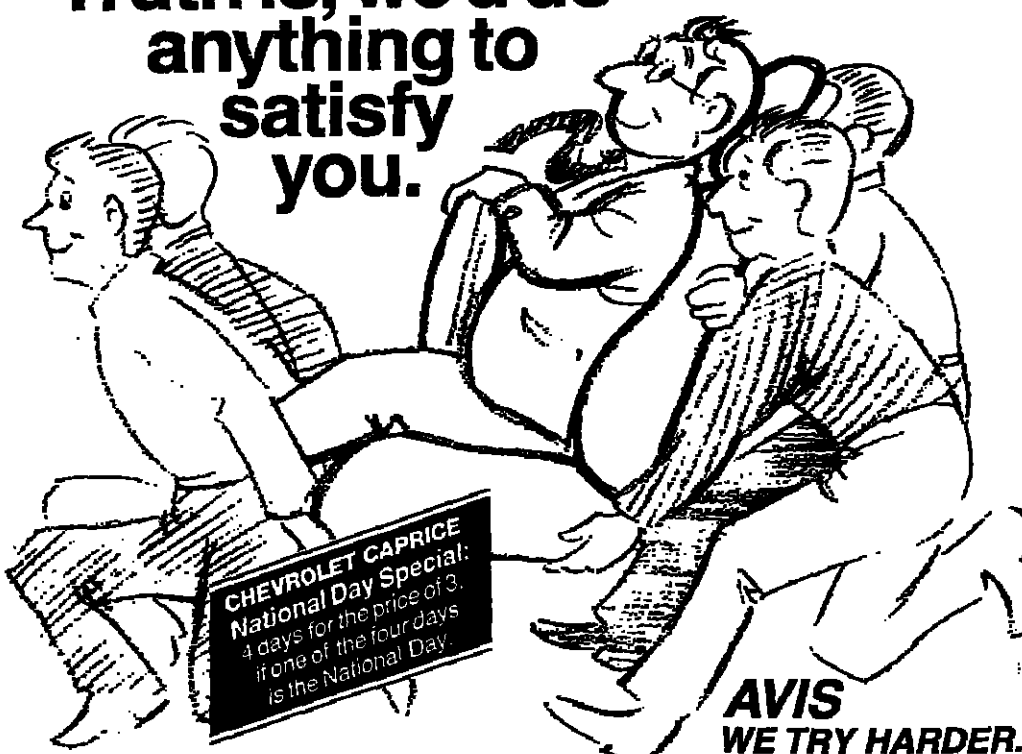
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TELEVISION PROGRAMMES

KTV 1

- 9.00 Holy Quran
9.10 Good Morning
9.15 Cartoon serial
9.45 World News via Satellite
10.00 Al Thaman: Arabic serial: Starring: Jamil Awadh, Juliet Awadh, Ruhi Al Safi, Iman Kamel
10.50 News Summary/Good Morning
11.00 Khalati Qamasha: local Arabic serial: starring: Khalid Al Nafisi, Hayat Al Fahad, Suad Abdullah, Ghanem Al Saleh, Maryam Ghadban, Ali Mufedi.
12.00 Kuwait Al Ams: features an interview with Al Hajj Thunayan Ahmad Omairi. Presented by Jassem Ghareeb.
1.00 News Summary
1.05 National songs
1.45 Special programmes on National Day
4.15 World News via Satellite followed by news and views about Kuwait to mark the National Day celebration. Regular features like the historical serial Ibn Attiya, starring Majed Afouni, Shafiq Hassan, Marcel Marina; and cartoons will also be shown.
7.00 News Summary
7.45 Good Evening
8.30 Special programme
9.00 News in Arabic
9.50 Al Baheraat Al Marrah: Arabic serial, starring Hassan Abideen, Ahmad Maher, Muna Jabar,



Alfred Hitchcock Presents, tonight at 10 pm on KTV 2.

Fatima Tabae, Mohammad Rida and Anwar Ismael
10.50 Nukta Tahool: Arabic play, starring Abdul Imam Abdullah, Jamal Radhan
12.30 News Summary
12.35 World News via Satellite/ Holy Quran/Closedown

KTV 2

- 6.00 Holy Quran
6.10 Bionic Six: cartoon serial
6.30 Chocky's Children: based on characters created by John Wyndham, Albertine has difficulty convincing her tutors that she is capable of doing research.
7.00 Roving Report: weekly roundup of world news and views
7.35 Documentary on animal husbandry in Kuwait.

- 8.00 News in English
8.40 A Different World: "If Chosen, I May Not Run". Comedy. Rediscovery of the World: "Land of Living Totems". Documentary.
10.00 Alfred Hitchcock Presents: "Murder in Mind". A woman who reads murder mysteries imagines a crime has been committed...
10.30 French feature film: "Malevil". Starring: Michel Serraults, Jean Louis. After a devastating earthquake destroys a town, survivors help each other to cope with the tragedy.
11.30 News Summary/Magazine D'Actualite: Holy Quran; Closedown

Please note that programmes and timings are liable to change without notice.

RADIO PROGRAMMES

- 0000 Newstalk
30 In Praise of God
0100 News Summary followed by A Question of Science
45 The Intimate Brahms (ex 6th Havana Guitar Festival)
0200 World News
09 British Press Review
15 Andy Kershaw's World of Music
30 Science in Action
0300 World News
30 News about Britain
15 Food and Drink
30 Anything Goes
0400 Newstalk
30 Dangerous in Love
45 Nature Now
0500 World News
09 Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary
30 Waveguide
40 Words of Faith
45 Recording of the Week
0600 Newstalk
30 Phone-In
0700 World News
09 Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary
30 6th Feature: 13th Glorious Revolution; 20th Feature: 27th Poacher's trail
0800 World News
09 Words of Faith
15 Dangerous in Love
30 Anything Goes

- 0900 World News
09 British Press Review
15 Food and Drink
30 Financial News followed by Sports Roundup
45 Andy Kershaw's World of Music
1000 News Summary followed by Phone-In
30 The Marriage Chast-Show
1100 World News
09 News about Britain
15 Health Matters
30 The Ken Bruce Show
1200 Newstalk
15 My Music (ex 6th Novel Ideas)
45 Sports Roundup
1300 World News
09 Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary
30 6th Feature: 13th Glorious Revolution; 20th Feature: 27th Poacher's Trail
1400 Outlook, opening with 5-Minute News
45 The Picture of Dorian Gray
1500 Newstalk
15 A Question of Science
1600 World News
09 News about Britain
15 Dangerous in Love
30 Health Matters
45 The World Today
1700 World News
09 Commentary

FM Services.

- 0600 Opening/Easy Listening
0830 News
0840 Easy Listening
1000 Songs and Music
1300 Easy Listening
1330 News on FM Service
1340 Easy Listening
1400 Classical Music
1600 Easy Listening
1700 Latin American
1800 Pops
1900 Helter Skelter
2000 Pops
2130 News
2145 Pops
2200 Jazz
2300 Easy Listening
2400 Instrumental Listening
0200 Closedown

Urdu

- 1900 Opening Holy Quran
1910 Behereen Qaul
1930 Songs
1935 Press report
1940 Islam aur Daur-e-Hazir
2000 News in Urdu
2020 Songs
2040 Humare Mehman
2100 Closedown

PRAYERS

- Fajr 5.02 am
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Maghreb 5.41
Isha 6.59

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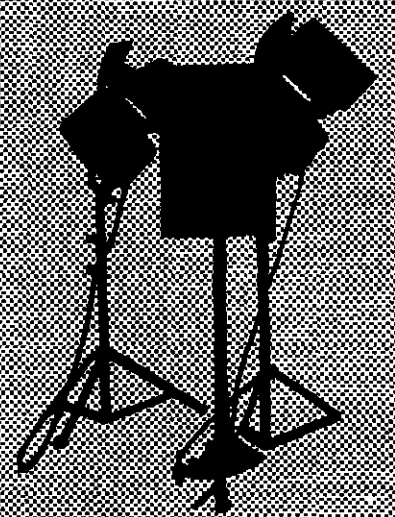
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Thought for today

EVERYBODY thinks of changing humanity, and nobody thinks of changing himself — Leo Tolstoy, Russian novelist (1828-1910).

Outrage over 'The Satanic Verses'

Latest challenge to Benazir's government

By Bryan Wilder

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan, (AP): The sudden burst of rage in Pakistan over Salman Rushdie's "The Satanic Verses" has assumed political dimensions that many analysts see as a challenge to Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's young government.

Ayaz Amir, a respected Pakistani political columnist, said the anti-Rushdie uproar has served as the biggest political embarrassment to date for Benazir and her Pakistan People's Party.

"The latest events in Islamabad have done more to expose the PPP's soft underbelly than anything else since its assumption of power," Ayaz wrote in the Karachi newspaper Dawn.

Benazir's party emerged as the nation's largest in elections last November, gaining almost twice as many votes as the eight-party Islamic Democratic Alliance (IDA) but still falling short of an absolute majority in parliament.

Her PPP government came to power with the support of some small parties and independents. They, like the opposition, profess unwavering Muslim faith, but Benazir has shunned Islamization.

Benazir's lack of an overall majority has led to a series of political scrapes with the IDA, the most notable being the PPP's campaign to repeal a constitutional amendment that gives the president broad discretionary powers.

Popularity

For the prime minister's conservative and hard-line religious opponents, a strong presidency is an effective way of keeping Benazir's personal popularity in check.

The uproar over "The Satanic Verses" may have served as a catalyst to Benazir's opponents. Devout Muslims say the novel by the Indian-born author, a British citizen who lives in London, offends their faith by satirizing the Prophet Mohammed (PBUH) and by implying that Islam is not the world's only true religion.

Pakistan, India and several other countries banned "The Satanic Verses" last year. Benazir's party and its right-wing opposition agreed on a parliamentary resolution upholding the ban as recently as January.

But last Sunday, Muslim youths led by religious leaders and political opponents of the PPP converged on a US cultural

Literary pyres

Religion behind banning of books

By Michael Miller

NEW YORK, (Reuters): Salman Rushdie is the latest in a long line of authors whose books have gone up in flames over banned, including such classic writers as Charles Darwin and James Joyce.

Others, like Rushdie who was sentenced to death by Iranian leader Ayatollah Khomeini, have had their lives threatened as well.

"Book burning is the most powerful form of review," said Geoffrey Stone, dean of the University of Chicago's Law School.

He said the action of the Muslims who burned Rushdie's book "The Satanic Verses" in England was "much, much more than an expression of dislike. By burning the book they were cleansing themselves of a disease."

Deny

Muslims the world over have condemned "The Satanic Verses" as blaspheming the Prophet Mohammed (PBUH) a charge the Indian-born English author denies. A senior Iranian cleric offered up to \$3 million reward for anyone who killed Rushdie.

Throughout history, religion has often been behind the banning and burning of books, and even of their authors.

Writers and their books were burned during the Spanish Inquisition in the 16th century to stamp out heresy and eradicate Judaism and Protestantism. In medieval Italy, authors also perished for offending religious leaders.

It was only 24 years ago that

centre in Islamabad to protest publication of the book in the United States, smashing windows and starting small fires in the building.

Police responded with tear gas and gunfire. Six people were killed and more than 80 injured, including police.

Killed

It was the worst violence in the Pakistani capital in a decade, and it broke out while Benazir was away in China on her first official foreign trip since becoming prime minister last Dec 2.

Benazir criticised police actions in the riot but charged that the violence appeared to be inspired by her political rivals using objections to the book to whip up anti-government sentiment.

The Frontier Post, an English-language newspaper that often supports Benazir's party, accused the protest leaders of deliberately escalating the demonstration into violence.

"The path of confrontation... is being followed by people who either do not accept the democratic way of life or are not happy with the results of the general elections and now wish to destabilize the popularly elected governments," the newspaper wrote.

Benazir's father, the late Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, headed a left-leaning government during the 1970s. He was overthrown in 1977 in a military coup led by Mohammed Zia ul-Haq and executed two years later.

Backing

Zia, who became president, ruled eight of his 11 years under martial law, winning the backing of small but powerful Muslim fundamentalist parties by espousing a programme of making Islam the supreme law of Pakistan.

The programme had made only marginal headway by the time Zia died last August in a plane crash.

Zia's political heirs formed the IDA to contest the country's first free elections since his takeover. Islamization was a major component of its platform but candidates de-emphasized the issue as the campaign progressed.

After last Sunday's violence, the protest organisers said the timing had nothing to do with Benazir's trip to China. They said it was because international news magazines carried reviews of "The Satanic Verses" in early February.

the Roman Catholic Church did away with its "Index of Forbidden Books", a list of titles Catholics were told it was sinful to read.

Until 1984, when Rome lost its official status of sacred city, plays, books and films deemed religiously offensive could be banned.

Qin Shi Huangdi, China's first emperor, banned Confucian books and other texts opposing the way he ruled, and in 213 BC, according to popular history, the "burning of the books" began.

Red Guards ransacked entire libraries during China's Cultural Revolution in the late 1960s.

The greatest recorded book burning in history was that of Hitler's Nazi regime in 1933. Flaming pyres of literature were to be found across Germany. Many Hebrew works came under the Nazi torch, as did books by German-language authors which were considered "Un-German."

Burn

In the United States, fundamentalist Christians in the Midwest and southern regions have burned books they want banned from schools and libraries. One target has been Charles Darwin's work on the theory of evolution which they say contradicts the Bible.

Another much-censored author was James Joyce whose epic "Ulysses" was allowed into the United States only in 1933. One of the most recent cases of official book burning was in November 1986 when the Chilean government impounded and set ablaze 15,000 books by Nobel prizewinner Gabriel Garcia Marquez.

Coercion to enforce birth control

China plans to crack down on officials

By Ann Scott Tyson

BEIJING: In an effort to improve the image of its population programme abroad, China plans to crack down on officials who use coercion to enforce birth control, according to a Western diplomat.

The government plans to formally investigate and publicly punish officials involved in family-planning abuses such as forced abortion and infanticide, the diplomat says. Punishments could range from expulsion from the Communist Party and government posts to jail sentences, he says.

China's assurances that it will take sterner, public action against reported abuses came during meetings between Chinese family-planning officials and Nafis Sadik, Executive Director of the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA) last week, the diplomat says.

"Chinese officials are investigating cases of abuses and planning (to establish) an administrative mechanism to punish

those involved," the diplomat says. She says some past cases of abuses reported in the Chinese press have been publicly "ignored" by the government.

Beijing has strongly denied past allegations that its population-control policy includes compulsory abortion or sterilization, describing such coercive measures as isolated acts by local officials violating state regulations.

Halt

Reports of forced abortions in China led the United States in 1985 to limit and then halt its sizeable funding for the UNFPA, which runs a multimillion dollar aid programme in China. UNFPA officials say they carefully monitor the organization's aid to China to ensure that none goes to fund abortions.

The UNFPA recently formulated a new, \$57-million aid programme for China for the period 1990-94, which will be presented for approval by the US and other nations at a meeting of the UNFPA governing council in June. Aided by the UNFPA, China is increasing its contrac-

tive production, maternal — and child-health programmes in poor areas, and research in family planning and demographics.

"The Chinese need to counter their negative image," said Sadik during a visit to Beijing recently. She said she is hopeful that Washington will resume funding of the UNFPA. "There is a new opportunity, a new administration," she said, adding that President Bush had been supportive of UNFPA efforts in the past.

However, she cited the example of China's recent decision to impose compulsory sterilizations or abortions on thousands of severely retarded people in some regions as "things the Chinese should not do" if they hope to win broader support overseas.

Beijing's effort to improve the image of its "one couple, one child" birth-control policy comes amid rising concerns of Chinese leaders over a 1 billion-plus population that threatens to burgeon out of control.

China's population, which is expected to top the 1.1 billion mark by April, has been expand-

ing at a far faster pace than officials had planned.

Late last year, Chinese Family-Planning Minister Peng Peiyun announced that the long-term goal of holding the population to 1.2 billion at the year 2000 was unrealistic. She said that 1.27 billion might be a plausible target.

But last month brought even higher projections. In a front-page article entitled "Population Explosion Closing in," the official Economic Daily reported that, by conservative estimates, the population will surpass 1.32 billion by the end of the century, meaning a staggering 120 million more Chinese than planned for.

"There's no way the population is going to stabilize at 1.2 billion in the year 2000. Maybe 1.3 billion to 1.5 billion," Sadik said.

The economic, biological, and social consequences for China of more rapid population growth are potentially disastrous.

For example, China now feeds 20 per cent of the globe's population with only 2 per cent of total farmland. But each year, as

China's encroaching population grows by about 15 million people, its arable land shrinks 5 per cent, Economic Daily said.

Put more broadly, each year China's new population consumes 20 per cent of the increase in gross national product, half the added output of meat and foodstuffs, and 40 per cent of newly built housing, the paper said.

Modernization

"If our population increase greatly surpasses the target... modernization will be out of reach," it warned.

Several factors have added to the urgency and difficulty of China's current population control effort:

● China is entering the third baby boom of its communist history as the older members of a generation of 360 million baby boomers born from 1962 to 1975 enter peak reproductive years. Officials expect the baby boom to last until the turn of the century.

● Greater social mobility arising from market-driven economic reforms has hindered official monitoring of pregnancy

and birth. China's transient population, negligible during Maoist times, has mushroomed to 30 million as a vast surplus farming population quits the land. Labelled "birth guerrillas," the transients shift from place to place evading populating controls and producing millions of "black children," unregistered offspring who are ineligible for schooling, subsidies and food rations.

● Looser social restraints have also led to a rise in teenage pregnancy and marriage before the legal age of 20 for women and 22 for men. According to official statistics, last year about 2.5 million teenagers became pregnant.

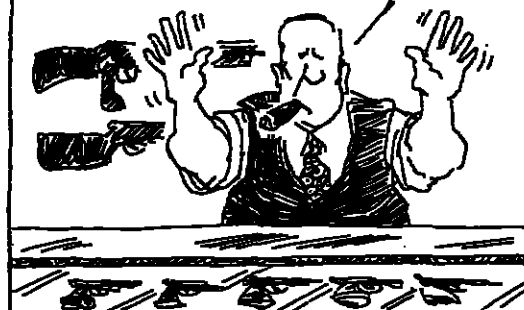
● Greater economic opportunity for Chinese families has given couples an incentive to bear more children, while rising prosperity has allowed them to pay state fines imposed on extra offspring. Three and more children are common in rural families, where farmers follow the popular adage: "More sons, more wealth."

The Christian Science Monitor.

EVERY TIME SOME NUT MOVES DOWN A SCHOOLYARD FULL OF KIDS...



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THERE'S NO SUBSTITUTE FOR FREE MEDIA



Egypt counters extremists with iron fist and persuasion

By Nejla Sammakia

CAIRO, (AP): The Egyptian government is combining harsh police tactics with gentle persuasion by Muslim holy men to choke off stirrings of religious extremism among the youth.

Outbursts by Muslim militants occur only sporadically in Egypt, where most of the 90 per cent Muslim population is devout but non-violent.

But many Egyptians have been alarmed by a series of clashes that began last August in three areas, resulting in deaths of four civilians and two police officers.

President Hosni Mubarak has called the troublemakers "youth without proper guidance." But police reaction has indicated deeper concern, as officers swoop down on mosques and neighbourhoods rounding up thousands on suspicion of being activists.

At the same time, government-owned radio, television and newspapers publicized a high-profile New Year's appeal by several of the country's most prominent Muslim clergymen for co-operation with the government.

The appeal provoked a salvo from opposition newspapers accusing the clergies — teachers known as ulema — of being government stooges. The ulema responded by insisting they merely were giving valid religious guidance from the Holy Quran.

Condemned

In the appeal, popular Sheikh Mohammed Metwally El Shaarawy, a Muslim preacher speaking for the eight ulema, condemned violence by fundamentalists opposed to modern movies, music and social mixing of sexes.

He advised the faithful that Allah expects earthly rulers to be obeyed and will guide them to make necessary changes in the system without force or pressure from the governed. One Muslim should not brand another Muslim an infidel, as some have called government leaders, El Shaarawy said.

"We must be patient in awaiting full implementation" of sharia, the 1,350-year-old system of ethics and laws by which Muslims are supposed to live, he said.

The government claims 90 per cent of Egypt's French-based legal system already conforms with the sharia.

"The ulema agree that changing that which is un-Islamic is the duty of the ruler," El Shaarawy said.

El Shaarawy's Jan 1 discourse to 5,000 people at the ancient Al-Azhar Mosque was shown live on television.

Since then, it has been repeated several times on TV. Televised soccer matches, with their large, young and male audiences, often have been followed by clips of the Al-Azhar session, interspersed with interviews by young people extolling the merits of the ulema's words.

Radio and newspapers likewise have given wide coverage to the subject.

Egypt's ulema have wielded much influence for centuries. They spread their views mainly in Friday sermons that give huge mosque crowds guidance on the Holy Quran and sharia and also on family planning, trade, foreign policy or other worldly issues.

But fundamentalist critics such as politician Farag Foda consider it unwise to use the ulema to fight extremism.

"The government will win partially" in the short run, said Foda, a Muslim who outspoken views sometimes elicit threatening letters from religious extremists.

"But in the long run, it will give legitimacy to the Holy Quran... instead of the constitution," he said, as the basis of government, he said.

The New Year's message was the first by non-government clerics on the sensitive issue in which the government tries to appear firm yet pious.

But in recent weeks the government's top religious leaders, the minister of religious endowments and the grand mufti, made extensive appearances in mosques, praying and preaching on the wrong-headedness of violence to achieve religious goals.

Arrest

Interior Minister Zaki Badr, whose police have met militants with batons, tear gas and, sometimes, bullets, prays in the suburban Cairo mosque where three civilians were killed in a police raid in August. Police said the police had gone to the mosque to arrest congregation members plotting armed subversion and were attacked from inside.

Mubarak himself entered the debate in a late January speech to parliament.

"These are youth without proper guidance," he said of the extremists. "It is the responsibility of the thinkers... (opin-

ion) leaders... and the media to enlighten the youth fooled by wrong concepts and dubious ways."

At about the time Mubarak spoke, the state-owned newspaper Al-Ahram ran a series about Ein Shams, a Cairo suburb notorious for its militancy, in which the newspaper blamed society for the trouble. The district is poor and suffers a painful lack of public services, leaving a vacuum easy for fundamentalists to fill, Al-Ahram said.

Few observers think religious fundamentalism immediately threatens Egypt's Western-oriented system of government.

Figures

Although the government does not release figures on how many Muslims it believes hold extremist beliefs, there is widespread agreement that the number, while growing, remains relatively small in a country of 54 million. A researcher who follows the phenomenon for a Western embassy said the number has doubled in the last two years to 150,000 or more.

Generally, fundamentalists are so called because of a strict interpretation of the Holy Quran and a desire for immediate application of sharia.

By Laurinda Keys

JOHANNESBURG, (AP): Three years ago, anti-apartheid leaders launched a campaign to promote black activist Winnie Mandela as "the mother of the nation" and a symbol of resistance to government repression.

Since then, her image has been tarnished by a series of controversies over her lifestyle, public statements and involvement with a group of youths who have been accused of crimes by the police and the black community.

In the past few weeks, the wife of African National Congress leader Nelson Mandela has been linked with alleged beatings of black activists, disappearances and the death of a 14-year-old boy. During this time, those who promoted Winnie in February 1986 have been silent.

The government, which isolated and banned her for nearly 23 years, has run several television news broadcasts on her troubles, quoting reports by a press corps that in the past was relatively tolerant of Winnie's sometimes controversial behaviour.

Discredit

As far as the government is concerned, the ANC's most effective way of discrediting Winnie may have been its decision in 1986 to lift the ban on quoting her and remove all restrictions on her activities.

Public reports of battles between her bodyguards and other Soweto youth groups go back to January, 1987 when police questioned her about the death of one of the young men who congregated at her home under the name of the Mandela United Soccer team. She formed the team in 1986, saying the youths were getting into trouble and she wanted to get them off the streets. They have played few soccer games.

For two years her name has been popping up in court cases involving charges of assault, murder and robbery by people alleged to have stayed at her house or used her car and van. Police occasionally have announced they were investigating charges against her, but have never brought her to court.

By Lee Stokes

MANAMA, (UPI): Moderate Iranian factions trying to pick up the pieces of Iran's shattered foreign policy after Ayatollah Khomeini called for the execution of a British author appear to be winning the day against unpopular hard-liners, Gulf-based Western diplomats and Arab government officials said Saturday.

But reports that Islamic fanatics are already mobilising to kill Salman Rushdie, the author of "The Satanic Verses," illustrate the difficulties Iranian moderates will continue to face in trying to slow down their country's isolation after the Khomeini decree.

"Iran's isolation is hurting moderates such as (Parliament Speaker Hashemi) Rafsanjani and (Foreign Minister Ali Akbar) Velayati, who want contacts with the West," said one Arab government official, who in line with local practice asked not to be named.

"But they're slowly winning the day over the unpopular hard-liners," he said. "This also happened last summer, when Khomeini eventually called an end to the Gulf war."

Thrives

Diplomatic sources drew a parallel of Khomeini with Bolshevik leader Lenin and said "he thrives on crises... and regularly has to renew his revolutionary credentials." But this one backed-fired.

The sources said Khomeini undoubtedly expected strong reaction to his edict, "but he probably didn't expect the whole of Western Europe to back Britain and distance themselves from Iran."

They said immediate condemnation of Iran from France, West

Winnie Mandela lands herself in the soup

Anti-apartheid newspapers sometimes delayed for weeks printing negative stories about her or her bodyguards for fear of being used in a propaganda campaign. Winnie's refusal to comment on the events and her continued support of the unpopular Mandela United, who have threatened reporters and photographers as well as residents of Soweto.

Stubbhorn

For years she was known as the courageous, stubborn wife of Mandela, fighting small battles, and occasionally disobeying her restrictions, in the conservative farming town of Brandfort where she was banished. She received a steady stream of international visitors and issued statements on Mandela that could not be published in South Africa.

Her prominence soared in late 1985 after her Brandfort house was burned and she challenged the government directly by moving back to Soweto, the nation's largest black town. She had not been quoted in South African papers since 1975, but suddenly she was at almost every major rally, wearing ANC colours, her fist raised, supporting the nationwide anti-government protests and making a series of radical statements.

Disassociated

The government, without explaining why, lifted the ban on quoting her shortly after she made one of the most controversial pronouncements of her life. At a rally in the township of Kagiso, Winnie said, "With our boxes of matches, and our necklaces, we shall liberate this country."

The exiled leadership of the African National Congress disassociated itself from the statement. But her declaration was seen by the government as proof that the ANC supported the grisly method of murder with a burning tire that was being used

on suspected black collaborators in the townships.

The Mandelas married in 1958, when she was a 24-year-old social worker and he was a 40-year-old executive member of the then-legal African National Congress.

After the ANC was banned in 1960 and he went underground, Winnie spent 17 years under banning orders, in solitary confinement, on trial or under house arrest, while raising two daughters.

In 1977, she was banished to Brandfort, where she started a clinic and day-care centre.

She returned to Soweto in the midst of the national uprising in black townships, breaking her bans on public appearances and speeches. She said she spoke for the nation's jailed black leaders and for the ANC.

Focus

Friends suggested police did not arrest her because of the growing world focus on the Mandelas as a symbol of black resistance.

Law and Order Minister Adrian Vlok said last week that police were careful not to be seen as vindictive toward Winnie. But he also said it was hard to get a case against her because witnesses who were willing to testify later changed their minds or disappeared. She has not been charged with a crime since December 1985 when she was accused of violating her banishment order.

She was widely criticised for building a mansion on a Soweto hill, which she said was for Mandela whenever he left prison. Sources close to the ANC said Mandela sent word he would never live in the house, and it has not been occupied.

She never spoke publicly about the burning of her house last July. Through his attorney, Mandela said no retaliation should be taken against local high school students who had torched the house in a fight with the soccer team.

Iran's isolation hurting moderates

Germany and Italy, and the threat of a unified stance against Tehran from the European Economic Community at a time when Tehran looks abroad for assistance to rebuild its war-shattered and oil-blessed economy, undoubtedly, "helped the hand of Iranian moderates."

A clear lack of enthusiasm for Khomeini's decree, both inside Iran and among Muslim leaders abroad, illustrates the severity of Khomeini's rare gaffe, they said. Signs the moderates in line were trying to contain the damage of Khomeini's surprise edict, announced a full five months after Islamic nations condemned the work in Saudi Arabia, were heard on Tehran Radio.

In a Saturday commentary, the state-run radio said the decree against Rushdie was religious rather than political in nature and was not intended to harm Anglo-Iranian ties but to punish a blasphemer.

Pardon

At the same time, the radio said Muslim students in Europe had expressed their willingness to carry out Khomeini's death call, despite President Ali Khamenei's Friday offer of a pardon for Rushdie. The apology for Rushdie was apologised for blasphemy.

"We... will utilise all our capabilities to obey the religious decree of the Imam," the Union of Islamic Students Associations said in a statement.

TODAY IN HISTORY

- 1437 — Scotland's King James I is murdered in Scottish city of Perth.
- 1570 — Lord Hunsdon defeats Leonard Dacre's rebel army, ending northern rebellion in England.
- 1631 — German Protestant princes form alliance with Sweden's King Gustavus II.
- 1789 — King Gustavus III introduces pact of unity and security in Sweden.
- 1833 — Russian ships enter Bosphorus on way to Constantinople to aid Turkey against Egypt.
- 1928 — Britain recognizes independence of Trans-Jordan.
- 1942 — Japanese invade island of Bali in Dutch East Indies during World War II.
- 1969 — Disturbances break out in Nyassaland.
- 1962 — Astronaut John H. Glenn junior becomes first American to orbit earth.
- 1964 — Morocco and Algeria sign accord to end border conflict which resulted in troop clashes.
- 1967 — Indonesia's President Sukarno surrenders all executive power to General Suharto, keeping only the title of president.
- 1973 — Laos government and communist-led Pathet Lao agree on pact to end warfare.
- 1975 — Greek Cypriot government calls on United Nations to fix deadline for withdrawal of 40,000 Turkish troops from that island.
- 1986 — Widespread religious violence involving Hindus, Muslims and Sikhs flares in India, and city curfews are imposed in three states.
- 1988 — Rainstorm triggers floods and mudslides in Rio de Janeiro that kill 65 people and leave up to 100 elderly hospital patients missing and feared dead.

Married bliss? Not if you're royal

By Judy Byrne

THE stress of married life can harm your health — and if you are a royal the dangers are doubled.

There are special strains that go with life in the shadow of the throne.

Prince Charles and Princess Diana have had their problems, like many a young couple adjusting to reality when the honeymoon is over. And they had to learn about being married while their life was constantly on the front pages.

Princess Anne and Mark Phillips, too, have had to live with rumours and public speculation, as well as his and her jobs that keep them both on the move round the world.

Princess Margaret's marriage ended in divorce and she has failed to find happiness again. Her romance with Peter Townsend was a casualty of the royal restrictions on the choice of a partner that can kill a relationship before it is given a chance.

Then there is Princess Michael of Kent, who must have wished at times that the man with whom she moved mountains to be allowed to marry had not been a cousin of the Queen's.

Strange

And the Duchess of York's strange behaviour following her sailor husband from port to Australian port while a nanny was left holding the new baby back home could have been fuelled by a fear of losing him if he felt he was no longer being put first.

For the partner who marries into royalty there could be the difficulty that their partner, brought up in a Palace by deferential servants, does not have the textbook training for the give-and-take of marriage.

The Duchess' obvious determination to be a model wife could have been fuelled by her own family experience. She comes from a broken home herself, with the classic child-of-divorce dilemma of feeling torn between two much-loved parents who no longer love one another.

She also went into the marriage older than her sister-in-law the Princess of Wales

Adjusting to married life is not easy. And if you happen to be a member of the British royal family, constantly in the public gaze, those troubles are doubled.



Prince and Princess Michael: series of scandals have made the last 10 years of their marriage a testing time

and forewarned that divorce was not for her. Royals are expected to stay married.

But if Princess Diana's youth may have made her unrealistically optimistic at the start, it also made her an apt and willing learner. And highly eligible. She was an aristocratic accustomed to being in the royal circle, attractive and with the potential to turn into a real beauty, and to whom the Prince was madly attracted.

Prince Charles' love life for years had involved a succession of women who either proved unsuitable for the job of Queen or because they were older, were more acutely aware of the restrictions that royal marriage would impose on them — and unwilling to accept them.

But if youth was one of Lady

Diana Spence's plus-points as a royal bride, it also meant an age gap of 13 years.

That could mean little for many married couples. But Lady Diana's lack of worldly experience made her a young twenty while Prince Charles was a prematurely middle-aged mid-thirties. The real difference was like a generation gap.

And the differences in the interests of the pop-mad Princess and opera-loving Prince, between Diana who loves TV soap operas and Charles the bookish intellectual, is enormous. It was not a formula for an easy marriage.

But the Prince and Princess have gradually worked out a pattern in which they follow their own interests.

He fishes off Ireland. She goes to soak up the sun with her mother and sisters.

He sloshes about in Wellington boots with a gun in the damp, grey countryside of Balmoral or Sandringham. She shops in London and launches with girlfriends at smart restaurants.

If it is not a Mills and Boon style romantic marriage, it is not a write-off either. Their sons, Princes William and Harry, are a deep bond.

Lowest ebb for them was the summer of 1987 when the couple spent more time than ever apart, fuelling speculation that their marriage was on the rocks. The Prince spent seven weeks in Scotland without his wife and family.

The time they spent apart is also a source of constant speculation about the relationship of Captain Mark Phillips, who has an equestrian business empire of his own, and Princess Anne, who travels so tirelessly for the Save The Children Fund.

Last year the Princess was at the top of the Royal Family's work league for the second year running, with 665 engagements and just three weeks off.

Shortly after Christmas she went on holiday with her husband and children for the first time in two years. They had just one week on the ski slopes.

Figurehead

For the Princess has turned what could be just a figurehead job as President of the Save The Children Fund into a serious career. And one she does brilliantly, with a tough professionalism that has earned her the admiration of both field workers and head office administrators.

The Princess, who insisted on marrying a commoner — her mother would willingly have elevated him to ensure that her first grandchildren were not plain Mr Peter and Miss Zara Phillips — is aware that she has been "a huge disappointment" for not living up to the fairy tale Princess image.

She says: "It is impractical to go around in life dressed in a long white dress and a crown." It is not her style, either. She is happiest down on the farm in Wellington boots mucking out



Princess Anne and Captain Mark Phillips: their marriage and the time they spend apart is a source of constant speculation

the horses.

Her marriage, too, has lacked the fairy tale element. But she and her horseman husband have managed to hack along in adjacent saddles side by side for most of the 15 years they have been wed when they are in the same country at the same time.

But the boat has been rocked by outbreaks of rumour — like the time her former bodyguard, Detective Sergeant Peter Cross, who was sacked, offered to sell the story of their "special relationship".

Mark Phillips was eventually stung into replying to that. He dismissed it as "pure fantasy" and admitted it was "hurtful", too. But being royal means constantly being under scrutiny.

The Los Angeles Olympics, for which the couple stayed in separate hotels, started up the gossip, too.

Silence

Once again Phillips was unable to contain himself in the usual dignified royal silence. Suggestions that the marriage was on the rocks were "absolute nonsense" he said. He had to be with the rest of the television team for whom he was commentator.

Princess Margaret is the member of the family who has paid the highest price in personal happiness for being born so close to the throne. For she was forbidden to marry Group Captain Peter Townsend, the divorcee war hero with whom she was madly in love.

And, though she could have given up her Civil List Allowance and place in the succession line and gone abroad to wed him, it would have been a psychological impossibility for



Princess Margaret and her ex-husband Lord Snowdon: she has had to pay a high price for being born so close to the throne

what. The Queen did give her consent, but they had to marry abroad and Princess Michael had a long battle to have her first marriage annulled and then to get the Pope's blessing on her second. And it cost the Prince his succession rights.

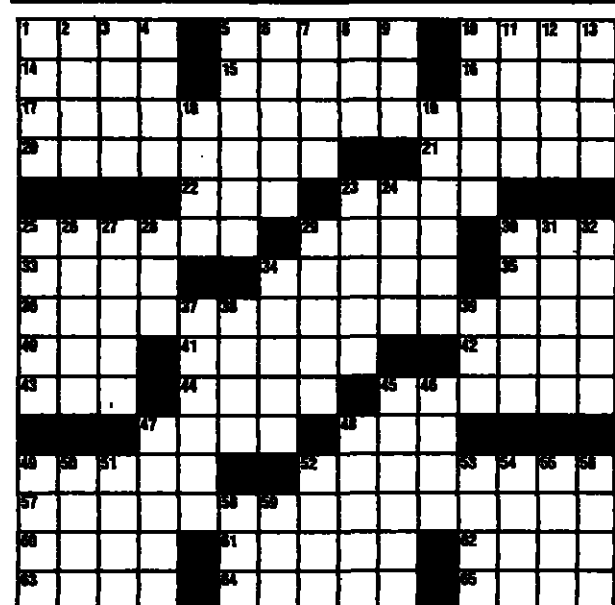
With such a tough series of obstacles, they might have hoped that life together would be plain sailing. But a series of scandals have made it a testing time.

She was seen visiting a Texan tycoon's flat at night wearing



Prince Charles and Princess Diana: constantly on the front pages

TODAY'S CROSSWORD



- ACROSS**
- 1 Bean town?
 - 2 Do a pressing chore
 - 3 Korzhin's winning word
 - 4 Poker stake
 - 5 Four-wheeled carts
 - 6 Shoe parts
 - 7 Soprano Mills
 - 8 One, in Frankfurt
 - 9 Guided
 - 10 Diamond bags
 - 11 Renaissance family
 - 12 Wimp's cousin
 - 13 Dennis and Doris
 - 14 Attention-getter
 - 15 Remove certain stitches
 - 16 Commotions
 - 17 First Arabic letter
 - 18 Danny Kaye role
 - 19 Detest
 - 20 Losers' helpers
 - 21 Combustion residue
 - 22 Gaffer Sam
 - 23 Composer Copland
 - 24 A Davis
 - 25 Yeasted
 - 26 Fiftine tributary
 - 27 More unctuous
 - 28 Japanese food plants
 - 29 Du Maurier's "Jamaica"
 - 30 More indigent
 - 31 Apropos of
 - 32 Vistas
 - 33 Crowd-scene actor
 - 34 Emulate Durer
 - 35 Accumulated knowledge
 - 36 Yesterday's ugly duckling
 - 37 Service monogram
 - 38 Ruler marking
 - 39 Fairy-tale denizen
 - 40 Western Indians
 - 41 Mets' home
 - 42 Number
 - 43 Passing fancy
- DOWN**
- 1 — stock and
 - 2 Do a pressing chore
 - 3 Korzhin's winning word
 - 4 Poker stake
 - 5 Four-wheeled carts
 - 6 Shoe parts
 - 7 Soprano Mills
 - 8 One, in Frankfurt
 - 9 Guided
 - 10 Diamond bags
 - 11 Renaissance family
 - 12 Wimp's cousin
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 - 37 Service monogram
 - 38 Ruler marking
 - 39 Fairy-tale denizen
 - 40 Western Indians
 - 41 Mets' home
 - 42 Number
 - 43 Passing fancy

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

DEER RAJA LADER
ROTTI IGOR ELECT
AISON DOUS VALUE
KINGHENRYVIII
ENSUE LIN NIS
PLUNGER PENT
EMS EVIL IRATE
QUEENELIZABETHI
ULTRA NONE EEN
ITSA DETOURS
PIA PUN TITALO
PRINCECHARLES
AMAIN AXLE ATINO
FARCE SAAR FAIL
TOTED EMMA EINE

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF
TALK ISN'T ALWAYS CHEAP

North-South vulnerable. North deals.

NORTH
♦ A K Q
♥ 10 8 7 6 2
♦ 8 5 4
♣ 9 3

WEST
♦ J 9 8 5
♥ A K Q J
♦ J 2
♣ Q 7 2

EAST
♦ 10 7 6 4
♥ 5 4
♦ Q
♣ J 10 8 6 5 4

SOUTH
♦ 3 2
♥ 9 3
♦ A K 10 9 7 6 3
♣ A K

The bidding:
North East South West
Pass Pass 5 ♦ Pass
Pass Pass

Opening lead: King of ♥
There are two types of spectators at a bridge game: kibitzers and dorbitzers. The kibitzer is entitled not only watch, but also to make comments on the bidding and play after the hand has been completed. Dorbitzers can speak only to kibitzers. But when either makes a remark during the play, strange things can happen.

This deal cropped up many years

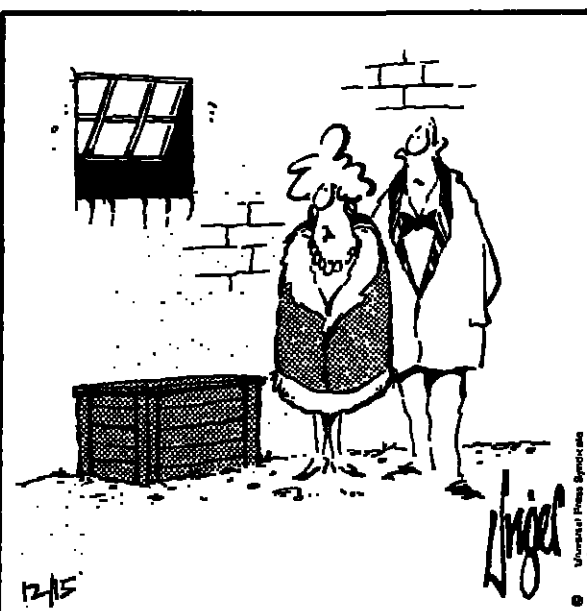
ago at New York's renowned Cavendish Club. A well-known expert held the South cards, and he quickly arrived in five diamonds, a well-conceived action in view of his weakness in the majors.

West cashed the king-ace of hearts, and then went into a huddle. A kibitzer sitting between South and West began getting impatient. He leaned over to look at West's cards and then announced: "It makes no difference what you do. You can't defeat the contract."

Taking the kibitzer at his word, the players exposed their cards. One look was all East needed to snarl: "Are you nuts? Another heart lead beats it!"

The other players agreed. Once again, a kibitzer had been proved wrong. The Card Committee was convened to adjudicate. East would ruff the third heart with the queen of diamonds, thereby promoting West's jack to the setting trick.

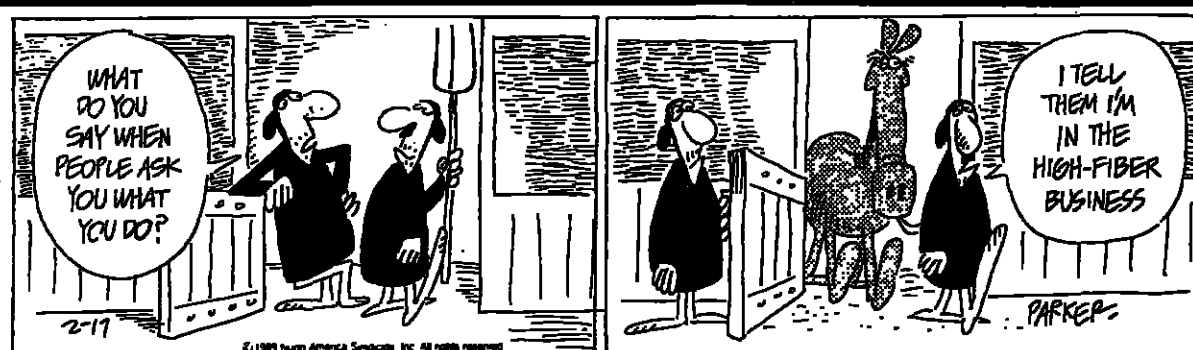
They awarded North-South each 800 points for making the rubber and East-West each 100 points for defeating five diamonds one trick. And then they debited the kibitzer's account with the 1,800 points the four players earned on the deal!



"So this is your private box at the theater!"

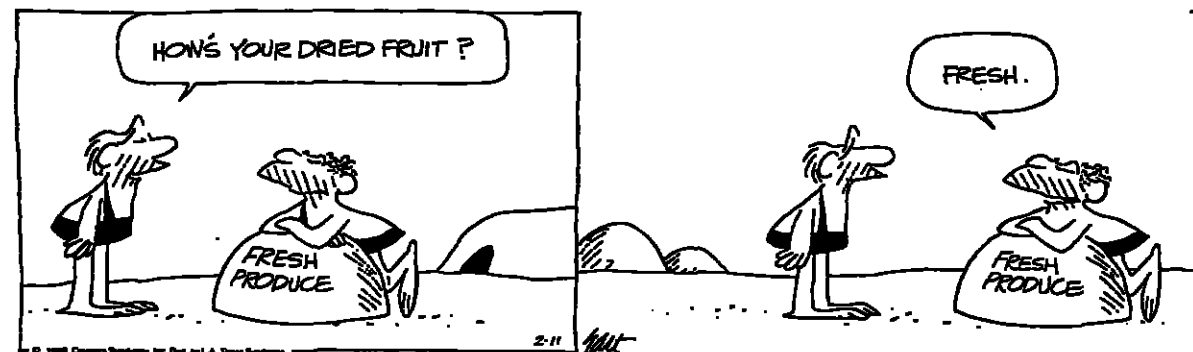
THE WIZARD OF ID

By Brant Parker and Johnny Hart



B.C.

By Johnny Hart

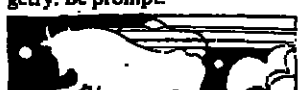


YOUR STARS



Aries (March 20 - April 18)

You have a busy week ahead of you so do not waste time and conserve your energies. 17 and 32 are your lucky numbers. Try to keep your wits very much about you. Do not place too much reliance on gadgetry. Be prompt.



Taurus (April 19 - May 19)

You will have a good opportunity but you are liable to miss it. You should avoid losing your temper. Look out for people coming out of side turnings. Be sincere.



Gemini (May 20 - June 20)

Make sure you do not put liquids where they might be split. You should not waste time dealing with secondary matters. Others are liable to steal your glory — do not let them. Be less personal.



Cancer (June 21 - July 21)

If you put off making a decision you might leave it until it is too late. The Moon's better influence will help you to meet a commitment. Keep your feet firmly on the ground. Be relevant.



Leo (July 22 - Aug 21)

The Moon's less good influence will tend to make you feel irritable and out of sorts. You should do all you can to avoid becoming excited. And try to recognise your limitations. Be perceptive.



Virgo (Aug 22 - Sept 21)

There will be difficulties but you would be wrong to exaggerate them. An offer or proposal deserves to be considered seriously. The results of your actions will take longer to manifest themselves than you had hoped. Be reasonable.



Libra (Sept 22 - Oct 22)

You should try to deal first of all with what is most important. You will have a better idea of where you want to go and how to get there. Avoid relying too much on others. Be selective.



Scorpio (Oct 23 - Nov 21)

At first you will feel rather unsure of yourself but you will soon regain your normal confidence. Something you have been putting to one side should be dealt with without further delay. Try not to make a nuisance of yourself.



Sagittarius (Nov 22 - Dec 21)

There is no point in feeling sorry for yourself. You will be able to see the positive side of the situation and to make the most of it. A frank talk will clear the air. Be strict with yourself.



Capricorn (Dec 22 - Jan 19)

You will be able to see the funny side of things and to have a good laugh at yourself. Watch out, you are liable to miss an important aspect of what you are about. Make sure you do not forget a birthday or anniversary. Be more patient.



Aquarius (Jan 20 - Feb 18)

There will be some ups and downs in your mood but something will happen to reassure you. Others will show more sympathy towards you, and you will be able to cope with a certain degree of animosity. Avoid deceiving yourself.



Pisces (Feb 19 - March 19)

You will be rather vulnerable so exercise a little more caution. Something you had thought would be simple will turn out to be less so. However there is no need for panic just stick to your guns. Be resilient.

WOMEN

Hormone associated with kick, drive, ambition

Iron ladies: just what makes them tick?

By Amit Roy

THE prime minister of the United Kingdom reacted with mock indignation recently when she was called "the only man in her cabinet".

The compliment, for it was intended thus, was paid to Margaret Thatcher by her hosts at the Indian High Commission in London when she unveiled a bust of Indira Gandhi, the assassinated prime minister of India.

It was recalled that Indira, too, had dominated her male colleagues in the way that Thatcher does, and had similarly been dubbed the only man in her cabinet. Professing not to be flattered, Thatcher said that the very assumption of greater male strength was "outrageous".

She may have a point. Her suggestion that a woman politician is often able to summon reserves of mental strength not available to a man appears to be borne out by the findings of British doctors and psychologists.

Hormone

In particular, a hormone called noradrenaline has just been identified as being the likely source of motivation in politically ambitious women.

Dr Malcolm Carruthers, director of the positive health and autogenic training centre in Harley Street, has reached this conclusion after 20 years of research.

He did not conduct laboratory experiments on Edwina Currie or Thatcher but took stress and trauma measurements in patients. "I believe this hormone is associated with kick, drive and ambition."

Carruthers, who is also director of clinical laboratory services and consultant in clinical pathology at the Bethlem Royal and Maudsley Hospital, south London, says that noradrenaline is secreted by the adrenal glands and by nerve endings of the "sympathetic alarm fight and flight system" which places the body on a "war footing".

Carruthers adds: "Women politicians become addicted to this hormone."

All women produce another hormone called testosterone. But, according to Carruthers, this is released in greater quantities in "women who adopt masculine behaviour patterns."

Further supporting evidence is provided by the emerging pattern of leadership in South Asia.

Following the violent death of a dominant male politician, it is increasingly the female relative who takes over the political mantle. This is certainly curious in societies which otherwise remain

A hormone called noradrenaline has just been identified as being the likely source of motivation in politically ambitious women by British doctors.



Benazir Bhutto



Corazon Aquino



Sirimavo Bandaranaike



Indira Gandhi



Sheikh Hasina



Khaleda Zia

male-dominated.

The best example is Pakistan, where the execution of Zulfikar Ali Bhutto catapulted his daughter, Benazir, 35, into politics, and last year into the post of prime minister.

Benazir, in turn, likes to compare herself with President Corazon Aquino, 56, of the Philippines, who entered politics after her husband, Benigno, was shot dead at Manila airport in 1983.

The first woman to become prime minister was Sirimavo Bandaranaike, 72, in Sri Lanka in 1960, shortly after the assassination of her husband, Solomon, the prime minister.

Now, Bandaranaike's daughter, Chandrika, 43, has assumed the chairmanship of Sri Lanka's left-wing People's Party to replace her actor/politician husband, Vijaya Kumaratunga, murdered last year by terrorists.

In Bangladesh Sheikh Hasina Wazed, 41, the principal opposition leader, continues to work from the house in Dhaka, the capital, where her father, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the nation's founder, was assassinated.

The other main opposition leader in Bangladesh is Khaleda Zia, who entered politics after her husband, General Ziaur Rahman, died in an Army coup.

In Burma, Aung San Suu Kyi, 43, an Oxford academic married to an Englishman, returned home last year to become secretary-general of the new opposition party. Her father, General Aung San, was a nationalist who was assassinated in 1947.

Complex

There are dynastic and other complex factors to explain each succession, but taken collectively the women do appear to be part of a new phenomenon. But why hasn't it been evident in the West? Why, for example, didn't Jacqueline Kennedy show any political ambition?

Carruthers says American women suffer excessive stress from supporting their husband's political career. "It has been disclosed that Kitty Dukakis has a drink problem. Betty Ford had cancer."

Dr James Thompson, a senior London University psychology lecturer, at the Middlesex hospital, has been analysing how children are affected by traumas such as the violent death of a parent. He has discovered that this often provokes a child to develop latent skills.

Where there has been no obvious tragedy, a daughter's political ambition has usually been fired by "a dominant personality who acts as a role model." In Thatcher's case, he is certain there was a strong identification with her father, Alfred Roberts.

In talking about Indira, Thatcher was uncharacteristically emotional.

Thatcher said: "I like to think that, in a very special way, she and I had something in common. We spent many hours together discussing political matters and exchanging personal experiences. The position of a head of government is always and inevitably a lonely one, and for me it has been lonelier without Mrs Gandhi."

As for their ability to dominate and outmanoeuvre a cabinet of mere men, the chateleine of Number 10 dismissed any chemical or hormonal explanations. She much preferred Kipling's observation that "the female of the species is more deadly than the male".

When his and her careers clash ...

Senator Bob Dole, a bitter opponent of President Bush and Elizabeth Dole his wife and the US secretary of labour are breaking new ground in Washington in forging separate political careers that are bound to conflict.

By Paula Deltz

AFTER President Bush announced the appointment of Elizabeth Hanford Dole as his secretary of labour, one was left with the nagging question: "How will she cope, working for her husband's political foe?" Senator Bob Dole, a Kansas Republican, was President Bush's chief (and bitter) opponent in the 1988 contest for the presidential nomination.

The Doles are breaking new ground — a first in Washington political history — in forging separate, powerful careers that are bound to conflict.

To consider the possible saga that will unfold during the next four years is also to wonder whether a political system based on checks and balances can accommodate a husband and wife on different sides of the scales. The country's Founding Fathers surely never foresaw this.

One of the curiosities of the American educational system is that in the pre-university years, when girls and boys are on an equal footing, the girls frequently excel in academic performance and are groomed to perform like experts — until one day society sends them a different message. The trick then is to pretend not to hear it.

Liddy Dole, now 52, took this course when she obtained her 1965 law degree from Harvard and quietly stormed Washington, moving up the ladder one run at a time. No amount of ladylike Southern drawl can conceal her power base, achieved on her own rather than by marriage.

When, at 36, she married Bob Dole (he is 13 years her senior), she was already a federal trade commissioner, and their power marriage made them a symbol of a new age in Washington.

During both Reagan administrations Liddy served in several posts, including, for more than four years, that of Secretary of Transportation, the longest term served since the department was founded in 1967.

Born in Salisbury, North Carolina, Liddy Dole has always had the ability to be part whiz-kid, part Southern belle. When she completed her studies at Duke University, where she read political science, she was elected to Phi Beta Kappa, the national honour fraternity, but was president of the student body and May Queen as well. She also spent a summer at Oxford. Despite her tailored and chic appearance, one would suspect she can use feminine wiles.



Separate lines: Bob and Elizabeth Dole answer questions on a phone line.

In many ways her husband is the greatest stumbling-block in her career. Twice she has stood back on his behalf in 1976 she took leave of absence from the Trade Commission to campaign for him as the vice-presidential candidate. And last year she stepped down to help him make his run for the presidency.

Though she may have had reservations concerning the wisdom of this decision — many feminists were vocally against it — the truth of American politics is that a man cannot run for President successfully without a wife at his side. Adlai Stevenson tried it in 1952 and 1956 and failed. Some even speculate that Senator Dole married when he did, in 1975 after an earlier divorce, because of his aspirations to reach the White House.

The particularly ugly battle that took place between now President Bush and Senator Dole, when the latter had the edge in the early primary elections, left the first bitter taste in what was to be an increasingly vituperative election year.

As soon as it became clear that George Bush would be President, Liddy Dole thought her government career was over and began to investigate positions in the private sector.

President Bush, however, thought otherwise. He invited Senator Dole to lunch for a public reconciliation and made

Mrs Dole a member of his Cabinet.

Senator Dole is the minority leader of the Senate, which is controlled by the Democrats; and President Bush, working with a Congress that is ruled by the other party, needs every ounce of support he can get for legislative approval of his programmes.

Junctura

At this juncture, party unity is all, so that for President Bush the appointment of Liddy Dole is expedient not only because of her liaison work with labour leaders during the Reagan administration, but also because, in the public view, a serious rift in the Republican Party appears to have been healed — a view Senator Dole must ultimately share to be effective in his position.

Time will tell if the headstrong only sign seen, through a question of spousal loyalty may still be at stake. Mrs Dole's political loyalty as a Cabinet member is with the executive branch of government — that is, with the President. And, when confidentiality is the best policy, she may not be able to share information with her husband. Fireline chats may be mute.

A few years ago a television presenter on 60 Minutes asked the Doles, in a joint interview, "What would happen if one of you knew something that you were sworn to secrecy about, that

could harm the other?" After they had both stammered a moment, the Senator responded, "I assume that if she had the information, she would tell me, and that if I had it, I'd keep it quiet." Well, maybe.

Testify

As a Cabinet secretary frequently to testify before congressional committees, Mrs Dole must meet her husband in his capacity as a committee chairman. On one similar occasion she was heard to quip: "I hope we can come to quick agreement on some important matters that are before us, in all three houses."

Individual power is an overriding consideration for all three members of his political triangle. Both Bush and Bob Dole are at the peak of their careers. Liddy Dole still has a long way to go. By refusing appointment to the Bush Administration, she would have denied herself the opportunity of being the fastest-rising woman in American politics. And why should she do that?

Recently Senator Dole was asked whether the Republicans would soon be ready for a woman vice-president. "You'll have to ask Liddy," he answered. "I don't know if she wants a woman as her running mate." But this is America, and she will need a husband at her side if she wants to be President.

Fragrance overdose? Try these tips

Too much of a good thing

ACCORDING to Kathleen Cameron, director of Prestige Fragrance evaluation at Quest International, wearing too much perfume or any one scent for too long can lead to scents ory overload — you can't smell it, but everyone else for miles around can. Alternate fragrances or update your "signature" scent so you don't overdose on any one fragrance. Don't douse yourself in perfume hoping to make it last all day. Scent lasts about four hours. Reapply throughout the day.

The wrong chemistry

Because fragrance is affected by the wearer's own scent and skin type, it smells slightly different on each person who wears it. A scent that smells great on a friend might not be right for you. Test a perfume before you buy. Try one fragrance at a time because the

Just as your mind tunes out a repetitive sound, your senses can be dulled by a scent you wear day after day, leading to fragrance 'burnout'. A fragrance might not be a good match for your skin type and body chemistry, or factors as varied as your surroundings, the season, your age or mood can make a fragrance wrong for the moment. To keep your fragrance fresh, keep these factors in mind.

first scent will always alter those that come after it. Spray on your lower forearm and wait fifteen minutes to make a final judgement.

A change of season

In summer, scents evaporate more quickly, and your fragrance also has to compete with other odours in the air. You may need to choose a slightly more concentrated fragrance or reapply it more often. Conversely, in winter, fragrances last longer and

you're indoors, so apply fragrance more sparingly. We also tend to associate certain scents with the seasons.

"Warm" scents like musk and cinnamon smell well-suited to winter (for example, Genny by Colonia), while lighter floral and citrus scents evoke spring and summer.

The time of your life

As you grow older and your self-image changes, the kind of fragrance you choose changes

too. In your early teens, you probably wore light, uncomplicated scents, while in your later teens and early twenties, you may choose a perfume because you identify with its image. As you grow older you're more likely to choose a fragrance based on your own tastes. Your fragrance should evolve with you. Just as you wouldn't wear pigtail to the office, don't wear a "young" scent that's no longer right for you.

Your environment and mood

The fragrance you wear for evening is not necessarily right for the office — and vice versa. For daytime/work, you need to be subtle. For evening, you want to be noticed, and you can wear a more alluring scent. At home, indulge in environmental fragrances to relax and comfort you.

FAMILY DOCTOR SKIN DISEASE REQUIRES FREQUENT, REGULAR TREATMENT

QUESTION: Our young son, age 9, suffers with a terrible, itchy rash that our doctor calls a dermatitis. We have been using creams and salves, which work sometimes, but the rash keeps returning. I want to be sure I'm doing everything I can. Can you tell me anything that might help?

ANSWER: It sounds like you are on the right path in battling a chronic and difficult-to-manage skin disease. From your description, it sounds like an atopic dermatitis. Sometimes called eczema, it is one of the most common skin disorders affecting children; from 3 per cent to 5 per cent of all children in the United States are affected.

Generally there is a history of allergy, either in the child or family, with problems such as asthma, runny noses from allergies and allergic conjunctivitis. The skin tends to be dry and scaly, and of course the itch is ever present. The use of emollient creams, or skin softeners combined with hydrocortisone, are useful in reducing both the rash and itch.

To be effective, the medicines must be applied frequently (as many as five to six times a day) and regularly. Skipping an

application or two and forgetting to apply medications regularly are the most common reasons that treatments fail.

A few other precautions may help. Don't use harsh or drying soap. Be careful in the choice of clothing; wool and some synthetic fibres may irritate sensitive skin. Observe carefully, to see if particular foods, such as eggs, milk or peanuts may be causing allergic reactions that increase the rash problem. Stress and emotional upset can also trigger an acute episode. When the itch is so severe that sleep is disturbed, the use of an antihistamine as a bedtime medication is indicated.

The good news is that about 80 per cent of patients with this affliction are free of symptoms by age 20. Until then your care, understanding the proper usage of medications, and consultations with your physician when flare-ups occur can make the course of the disease easier and more bearable.

QUESTION: I suffer with Parkinson's disease. While the medication helps somewhat, I can't walk as well as I'd like to, and I know my family must hang back and wait for me on many occasions. I'm embarrassed and wish I could do better. Can you please offer me any suggestions that might help?

ANSWER: I'll do all I can. The truth is that a few sessions with a talented physical therapist may do you more good, but here are some helpful suggestions. Most patients with Parkinson's Disease walk with stooped, forward-bent position and walk on the balls of their feet. This induces a type of gait called shuffling, steps that grow smaller and swifter as the distance increases.

If shuffling begins while you are walking, stop walking and reorganize. Place your feet about eight inches apart and stand as straight as you can. Then think about your next step. You will take a largest step, bringing your foot up as if marching. Point your toes up and place your heel on the ground first, as the foot strikes, then roll forward onto your toes. Now the next foot, same procedure. Swing the opposite arm forward when taking that step, to improve your rhythm and your appearance. Don't be embarrassed? look proud — as proud as your family is to be walking with you.

1989 TRIBUNE MEDIA SERVICES, INC.

By Jeremy Gavron

IN BANGLADESH, a land of floods, cyclones, wars and poverty, the story of the Grameen Bank is not far short of miraculous.

The Grameen (or rural) Bank is a 1980s, home-grown invention for lending to the poor. It breaks practically every rule of banking, but has become such a success that similar schemes now operate in 30 countries, including West Germany and America.

Ordinary banks lend mainly to men, to those with collateral, and in sums large enough to pay for the paperwork.

The Grameen Bank lends only to people who have no collateral. It is happy to lend sums as small as 60p, and though Bangladesh is a Muslim state, four-fifths of its customers are women.

Default

While most banks in Bangladesh have yet to work out how to ensure that even half their loans are repaid, the Grameen Bank has a default rate — less than two per cent — that would be envied elsewhere.

It has made half a million loans totalling more than \$50 million in the past 10 years, and all of its poor, often illiterate customers are charged interest at the regular commercial rate, at present 16 per cent.

Miracle bank for poor women

The Grameen (or rural) Bank is home-grown invention for lending to the poor in Bangladesh. It breaks every rule of banking and yet it is a success.

The idea was born in 1976 with a \$28 loan after Muhammad Yunus, now the bank's managing director, then a university lecturer, was asked for help by 40 women making bamboo stools in a small village in southern Bangladesh.

Lacking capital, the women had to borrow money at 10 per cent a month to buy bamboo.

The \$28 Yunus lent to them was enough to free them from a loan-sharking cycle and help them to make a real if tiny profit.

Within a few months all 40 had paid Yunus back.

The Grameen Bank grew from there, and was officially established in 1983. With a little credit, Yunus discovered, even the poorest villagers could turn from a one-goat into a two-goat family.

The bank now has 8,000 employees and more than 500 district branches. It operates in more than 8,000 villages and lends \$1.5 million a month.

The borrowers themselves now own 75 per cent of the bank in shares of \$2 each, and have deposited \$6 million in savings.

Of the 30 board members, nine are borrowers, and eight of those are women, almost all of whom were maidservants in rich rural homes just a few years ago, said Muhammad Huq, one of the original directors.

When bank workers set up in a new village, they organize prospective borrowers into groups. At first only two in each group are lent money. When they repay it two more become eligible, and so on.

Default by one villager would deprive others in the group of their chance of a loan.

Huq said the loans had financed more than 500 kinds of small-business. The smallest loan was of about 60p — to a woman selling bangles.

Mother Teresa helps reopen convent in New Jersey

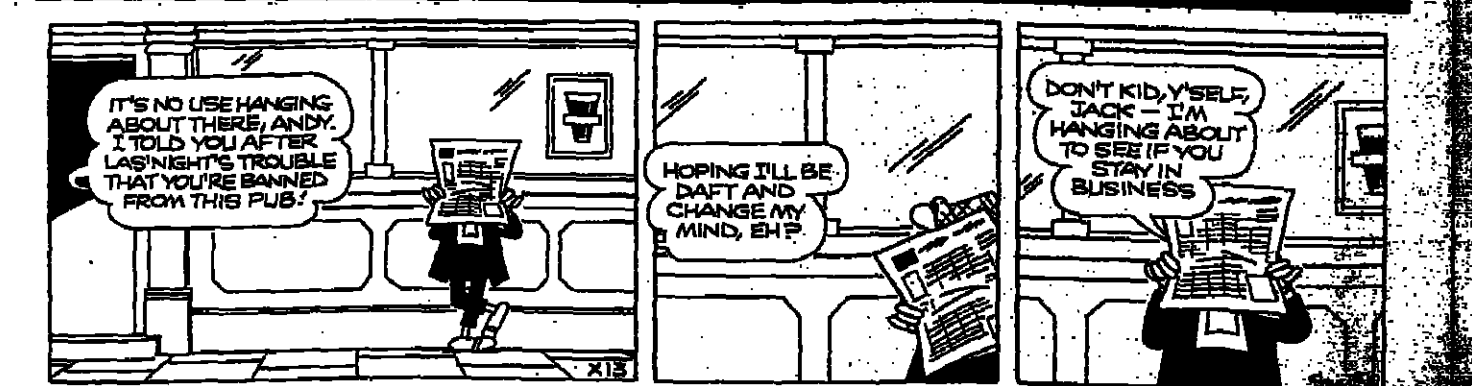
PLAINFIELD, New Jersey (AP) — Nobel peace prize-winning Mother Teresa helped to reopen a convent that had been closed for 17 years, saying she saw the nuns there doing "something beautiful for God."

Closed because of declining membership, St. Mary's convent is now home to 13 nuns who belong to Mother Teresa's Missionaries of Charity, contemplative order, said the Rev. Joseph J. Mirandi, pastor of St. Mary's Roman Catholic church.

About 1,500 people packed inside the church shoulder-to-shoulder to listen to the 78-year-old Mother Teresa, who has become known as the "Saint of Calcutta" for her work with the poor in that Indian city.

"I hope they're going to do something beautiful for God," she said during the Sunday morning mass. "It is very important to help each other and share with each other. I will pray that God's blessing be with you all."

ANDY CAPP



By Smith



Negotiating a passage in India: a group of naturalists on a coracle glide silently through the water

Keeping an eye on the tiger

By Pearson Phillips

THE best day began at 5 am with strong, dark tea brought to the veranda by the servants. If that sounds like a bit of Kipling that is just as it should be.

We were in a place called Kabini, which had once been the Maharajah of Mysore's hunting lodge, or one of his hunting lodges. The dawn mist hung in the forest as we drove to the lake. Spotted deer took off into the undergrowth. An elephant trumpeted.

The purpose of the early start was a coracle trip. As the Welsh discovered, coracles are useful for swirling down fast, boulder-strewn rivers.

The riverside tribes in this part of southern India had adopted them for the same reason. An irrigation dam has now turned the river into a reservoir, throwing part of the forest. But they still take to the water by coracle. It is an ideally discreet way of watching birds and animals.

At first, though, we could watch nothing. White mist covered the water. We were lost in it, as though suspended in cloud. Occasional tree stumps loomed out of the vapour, then the sun burned off the mist and suddenly the place was full of bird life.

Count

I know it isn't done to count. But I was able to tick off 53 varieties in my copy of *The Book of Indian Birds*. "Jim Ali. This was mostly thanks to a jungle genius called Sunder, who knew what to look for and where to look for it. He later gave me his card, which reads 'Sunder Raj - Naturalist.' He stood in the coracle, delivering immaculate guidance: 'Tree-stump. 11

An ideally discreet way of watching bird and animal life in India is on a coracle.

o'clock, that's a grey-headed fishing eagle...clump of bamboo to the left of it, that's a chestnut-headed bee-eater...on dead branch right of that, that's white-breasted kingfisher."

Then the animals began to appear. We floated silently offshore, watching groups of elephant, with calves, emerging from the bamboo, nervous sambar deer, parties of wild pig, a herd of buffalo. A tiger, perhaps? No luck.

Tigers were what had brought our party to India in the first place. Our safari was organised by the wildlife charity Zoo Check, founded by Virginia McKenna and Bill Travers, stars of the film *Born Free*. Their purpose is to keep an eye on the conditions of animals kept by zoos and circuses. One of their most celebrated coups was to rescue six unwanted tigers from a circus van in Maidstone and have them shipped to a sanctuary in India.

Compromise

Virginia, gentle but doggedly dedicated, was leading our expedition. She took us to see "her" tigers, now living in a 15-acre wired enclosure in the Banerghatta wildlife park near Bangalore. Being circus bred they could never be released into the wild. Even with veterinary care, one had succumbed to trypanosomiasis (sleeping sickness) to which the local wildlife acquire immunity. "It is a compromise," says Virginia. "But it is better than having them put down."

In southern India everything to do with wildlife conservation

has to be a compromise. The experience of alighting from an aircraft in the smouldering Indian dawn to hit the frantic Bangalore rush hour makes the whole business of coming to this miserably poor and overcrowded country just to look at birds and animals seem slightly eccentric.

The man we came to know as "The Colonel" (resident director of the state-run Kabini wildlife lodge) put the problem succinctly: "In 1970 our population was 550 million. Now it is about 830 million. We have lost huge areas of forest just to make room for people. What can we do? Send them to join the masses camping round the cities?" Later in our trip we were taken up the Western Ghats, a range of 4,000ft wooded hills rising sheer from the Mysore plain. "Ten years ago it was all forest as far as the eye can see," we were told. "Now you can see nothing but pasture and paddy fields."

This has led to conflict between people and animals. Wild elephants won't stick to their dwindling corners of forest. They have migratory routes which clash with the cultivators. M.K. Appayya, chief wildlife warden of the state of Karnataka (the modern name for Mysore), has tried tranquillizing rogue herds and moving them. But they drift back. "I think the days of the wild Indian elephant are numbered," he says.

Enthusiasts like Appayya are struggling against bureaucratic indifference and shortage of cash. Their only hope is to persuade the government that animal

conservation can be a tourist asset.

The Nagarahole ("snake-river") National Park south of Mysore is one of these. It is a sanctuary of 572 square kilometres of forest and scrubby swamp. This is, of course, quite unlike viewing game in the sweeping, open plains of east Africa.

There is always a problem seeing anything in a forest. But in India, labour is plentiful. Twice yearly the parks department recruits gangs of men with pangas to cut a swathe through the underbrush up to 100 yards on each side of the forest paths.

Successful

But most successful of all was an afternoon spent in one of Nagarahole's observation towers, built high up in the tree canopy near a water hole. The forest had been cleared from four strips which radiated out from the tower.

The animals were unaware of our presence. Instead of reacting to us, they were reacting to each other. We could study their behaviour over a period of time. Two deer walked cautiously, looking left and right, freezing at a sound or a scent. A family of wild boar shepherded the young, with the males scouting ahead and closing in to provide a bodyguard through the dangerous places.

But still no tigers (though I saw a leopard from the seat of a bus travelling to the park). The big cats were there somewhere, and flourishing. At a count in 1973 there were 11. At the last count, in 1984, the figure had risen to 54. To stop over-breeding some tigers have now been implanted with a five-year birth control pill. It is a technique which has lamentably failed to work with people.

Cruising down the Nile on a luxury liner

Short on romance, longer on comfort

By James Langton

FIRST, a cautionary tale. A friend once visited Egypt in search of the "real" Nile. She paid a little extra for the privilege of sailing on a genuine felucca, the romantic sailing boats with tall white sails like the outstretched wings of an ibis.

By day the group fried under an African sun; by night it froze under the African stars. The genuine Nile boatmen also washed the food in genuine Nile water. After several days all that was left was to cling together in intestinal agony, taking turns to step gingerly to the makeshift toilet over the edge of the craft.

All of which demonstrates that the modern Nile cruiser may be short on romance but rather longer on comfort.

The Shehryar, a huge slab-sided red and blue monster, waited our arrival on the quayside at Aswan. The cabins were neat, the water ran clean. The toilets flushed, and in the 90-plus degrees, the air-conditioning blasted like a cold shower.

At times this hermetically sealed world seemed almost too remote from the sweating, shouting chaos glimpsed so tantalising through the port-holes.

Spend a morning melting in the sun, pursued by verminous horse-drawn cabs, badgered by an army of touts, and the prospect of a cold drink under the awning of the upper deck becomes not a luxury but a matter of life and death.

In return, for the expense of flying to Egypt, one gets a whirlwind glimpse of a land with as many layers as the onions reputedly fed to the slaves that built the pyramids.

At Aswan, the most southerly point on the Nile cruise, and our point of embarkation, monuments from three empires represent 2,000 years of conquest and civilisation.

The largest and most extravagant of these is also the newest — the vast dam completed by the Russians in 1972 to control and irrigate the land, but which has also reduced the Nile to such a degree that navigation to Cairo is now only rarely possible.

The vast (but dwindling) Lake Nasser, which stretches 300 miles to the Sudan, has raised the water



A felucca is one way of sailing down the Nile for the adventurous, but a modern Nile cruiser is recommended if you want comfort.

table across North Africa and is even damaging some of the tombs in the Valley of the Queens. The environmental consequences of this immense engineering exercise are still only to be guessed at.

More spectacular are the island temples at Philae, until recently drowning in the lake waters but now moved whole-

and calm at perhaps the most beautiful point of the whole river. Close by is the Cataract Hotel, celebrated in Agatha Christie's *Death on the Nile*, and now restored to former glories.

Yet for all its attractions, we had come to Aswan to cruise, and as the Shehryar slipped her moorings at lunch on the second day, a tremor of anticipation ran

In return for the expense of flying to Egypt, one gets a whirlwind glimpse of a land with as many layers as the onions reputedly fed by the ancient kings to the slaves that built the pyramids.

operation to a new island which, with the assistance of much dynamite, exactly duplicates the original.

Against such follies, the efforts of Edwardian England seem modest. Kitchener's Island, which we reached by sailing boat, was a gift to the great man, who planted it as a botanical garden. It remains an oasis of flowers

from stern to prow. Freed from the obligations of a hectic schedule, our world being encompassed for a few hours by the length of the sundeck, we dropped our pace of life a notch or two.

In mid-stream, the Nile assumes its true and ancient role. On either bank, the scorching desert pushes to within a few hundred yards of the water. This

Burma awaits tourists again

By Tom Heneghan

PAGAN, Burma. (Reuters). The souvenir shop owner took the banknote in his hands, held it up to the light and then kissed the grimy paper three times.

"This is the first money I've earned, since August," he declared. "It's like I've opened up a new shop."

Just down Pagan's main road, another shopkeeper excitedly dusted off lacquerware boxes, teak elephants, tin gongs and gems of questionable quality.

"You are a good omen — first tourist for six months," he whispered. "We have been selling our gold to buy food. Now business will be back soon. Buy something, please."

Barred

Followed by plainclothes police and barred from leaving their bus to shop, the tourists were the ones who seemed remote and mysterious to the few people who saw them. "They looked like prisoners," one resident commented.

Glancing repeatedly over his shoulder, a visitor to an annual temple fair said officials drove through the bamboo hut town before the tourists' arrival with loudspeakers telling residents not to talk to the rare visitors.

A group of 46 foreign correspondents brought from Bangkok on an unprecedented official tour in mid-January also passed through the town almost unnoticed except at the riverside Thairipityaya hotel where they stayed.

"I didn't hear anything about them," said one shop owner with a look of lost opportunity.

Controls eased a bit by late January, when some West German and American tourists were allowed to roam the dusty main road and the narrow lanes of the market set up for an annual fair at the white-washed Ananda temple in the centre of Pagan.

But at least a dozen soldiers, barefoot out of respect for Buddhist tradition, patrolled the temple grounds as over 200 monks and novices lined up for bowls of rice, bananas and other food donated by the faithful.

cloth the Burmese royalty used to wear, residents said.

In normal times, they said, craft sellers could make up to 2,000 kyats (over \$300) a month.

The army, which crushed the democracy movement last September, began readmitting foreign tourists in mid-December but the tight restrictions it imposed hardly made the visit a leisurely holiday.

The trail-blazing group of West German tourists were free to roam around the deserted temples and pagodas that, in English writer Somerset Maugham's words, "loom huge, remote and mysterious, like the vague recollections of a fantastic dream."



A Buddhist novice at the Ananda temple in Pagan, Burma. Crowds of foreign tourists normally attended the Ananda temple fair but almost none came this year after Rangoon stopped visas for foreigners.

Outside, among the stalls selling spectacles, repaired umbrellas and oil cans cut out of beer tins, young boys struggled to practice their shaky English with phrases like "Hello. What is your name? We want democracy."

Although more acute, Pagan's problems mirror the difficulties the underdeveloped tourist industry in all of Burma has had since August.

January, usually the height of the season because of the mild weather, saw only 200 visitors coming to Burma this year instead of 4,675 in 1988, tourist officials said.

Tourist Burma, which used to fill two Fokker F-27 planes with tourists on the Rangoon-Pagan-Mandalay-Heho-Rangoon circuit every day, now has only three flights a week on that run.

To add to its problems, Burma Airways' safety record is so poor that several Western embassies urge their nationals

narrow green band, a patchwork of palm groves and tiny fields, runs over 500 miles to the sea and supports a nation of 50 million people. The scenery is both spectacular and sobering, for without this fragile strip, Egypt would be a lifeless wasteland.

Among this extraordinary concentration of life, growing layer upon layer over five millennia, is the most complete collection of monuments from the ancient world: Kom Ombo, a vast temple complex dedicated to Sobek, crocodile god of fertility, and Haroeris, the winged solar disc, which still dominates the east bank of the Nile. Edfu, with its massive exterior rivaling Wells or Chartres, and dark interior, reeking of old rituals and terrors.

At Luxor, the pace of tourism overwhelms: the Valleys of the Kings and Queens (so crowded that the tombs now smell of old socks), the towering, crumbling Colossi of Memnon, Queen Hatshepsut's fragile columns in the mountainside at Deir el-Bahari, the great temples at Luxor and Karnak, linked by an avenue of carved sphinxes so numerous they have not even bothered to dig them all up.

Trapped in this relentless but compulsive treadmill, the traveller becomes the tourist, harassed by taxi-drivers, followed down every alley by wheedling, pleading figures. In the Third World, the Western visitor can never really blend in, but Egypt, at its worst, will treat you like a dollar sign on legs.

That is one view. The endless hassles and rip-offs turned too many on our cruise inwards: happy to sample some instant culture, they then retreated to the security of the boat, to the disco, the oriental evening or the galla biya (nightshirt-like robe) party.

One evening I watched alone from the deck as the sun, huge and red, dipped behind the mountains to the west. As the dark closed in, the lights on the tall minarets spiked the night and the amplified calls from the muezzins echoed across the water.

On the banks of the Nile, men washed and watered the camels and water buffaloes, while screaming gangs of children ran, waving, through the tiny mud villages. Here, was a different Egypt, for a while.

Not even time to check out the washrooms

Flying twice as fast as the speed of sound

By John Edward Young

ABOARD THE AIR FRANCE CONCORDE: "Forget the foie gras stories, John. Tell us about the Concorde," a friend remarked recently.

I couldn't believe it. Having just returned from a whirlwind week-long "Food Lover's Guide to France" tour, I thought everyone was as anxious to hear about the six pounds I had gained as I was to explain them — ounce by delectable ounce.

The Concorde, I surmised, was a non-story. After all, it's been around for over a decade. Certainly everyone had heard enough about it.

Not so. "I know it's big, but how big, exactly?" a neighbour queried. "How fast does it go?" asked another friend. "Really faster than the speed of sound?" "Twice as fast," I said.

"Nooooo!" Someone even went so far as to ask what the movie was, and wanted to know "What does it feel like?"

And, of course, everyone wanted to know exactly how long it took to fly from Kennedy Airport in New York to Paris.

Here's how it went. The Air France Concorde lounge at Kennedy Airport is easy to find. Just tail any affluent-looking couple wearing ropes of gold chain and tot-

ing tons of Louis Vuitton luggage — no problem.

The lounge itself is laid out like an art gallery. Large modern tapestries, brown leather chairs, signed etchings, and wall-to-wall carpeting.

Drinks are gratis, and served with pate and smoked salmon hors d'oeuvres. Everything from here to France is, in fact, gratis once you pass through the lounge door.

Most disappointing is that you can't see the plane from the lounge. In fact you never get to see it at all — from the outside. No way to get pictures of you climbing aboard the delta-winged dart.

As you board, you get your first Concorde gift. In this case, a tan cloth, faux-leather soft attache portfolio filled with Concorde goodies: stationery, postcards, pen, and assorted memorabilia.

The first surprise is how small the interior is. Although the fuselage is only about 16 feet shorter than a 747, the Concorde is about the width of a Greyhound bus, and carries only 100 very well-dressed passengers. Seating is two and two on either side of the aisle.

Seats are snug, but comfortable. And everyone flies first class, or what is referred to as "Concorde Class."

Stewardesses swept about in elegant grey Nina Ricci dresses. "They used to be silk, but now they're blended polyester," one confided as she quickly got us

tucked into our soft "tulip" and "cardinal" red seats.

Takeoff is the one time you feel anything extraordinary. A surge of acceleration presses you into your plush seat, as the plane speeds across the runway at 220 mph and begins climbing at a dramatic rate.

"Expected flight time to Paris is three hours, 20 minutes," announced our captain, as the attendants passed around chocolate-covered almonds, mints, and drinks.

A large, digital speedometer mounted on the front cabin ticks off the speed as we soar toward the heavens.

Hitting Mach 1 — the speed of sound — went unnoticed. No, Aunt Alice, you don't hear the "boom." The sound barrier is broken only over water or desert, so as not to disturb mere Earthlings.

In fact, there's nothing to disturb our dinner of hors d'oeuvres, salad, tenderloin steak (medium rare, of course) with truffles, artichokes, and fresh haricots verts.

Oh, and the best part — 50 grams of fresh, pearly grey Iranian caviar. And the very best part — the gentleman sitting next to me hated the stuff. Bingo!

Dinner, eaten in the usual cramped airline style, with stainless steel flatware especially designed for the Concorde, was prize-time again.

Small shaving kits in the

same tasteful tan pattern were passed around. Each with its own tooth-brush/razor combo, note pad, eye shades, and slippers in case you want to take a stroll. But, alas, where to go? Not even time to check out the washrooms!

Supersonic speed, (Mach 2 or 1,350 mph) is reached at 30,000 feet, as we speed toward a final altitude of 60,000 feet.

At this stratospheric height you see the sky turn deep blue — almost purple, and you can actually see the curvature of the earth's surface, as you peek through the tiny 4-by-7-inch windows. Here the flight is totally calm, as no meteorological disturbances are possible at this altitude.

Descent, like most of the flight, is uneventful. But flight time is remarkable. New York to France in three hours, 17 minutes. Jet-lag is simply a physical impossibility.

"This is my 19th Concorde flight," remarked one obviously well-heeled gentleman, adding, "It's the only way to go."

"Oh, you travel on business?" I asked.

"No, personal," he said. By the time we disembarked to a chorus of "au revoir" from the crew, our luggage was waiting.

Exit Concorde: welcome aboard the Foie Gras Express...

1988, The Christian Science Monitor.

BUSINESS & FINANCE

South Korea to lift import curbs on 350 items

SEOUL, Feb 19, (AP): South Korea will lift non-tariff restrictions on imports of 350 products such as pharmaceuticals, medicinal herbs and farm seeds next month, officials said today.

Administrative or procedural restrictions on another 1,630 items will be eased, officials of the Economic Planning Board said in a meeting yesterday.

The lifting of the restrictions is aimed at accelerating imports and opening up South Korean markets to foreign goods, they said.

It also comes 10 days before the arrival in Seoul of US President George Bush, who is expected to urge South Korean President Roh Tae-Woo to import more US goods.

Restrictions

Critics, however, have called for caution in easing import restrictions, pointing out that rapid liberalisation could fuel anti-Americanism.

On Monday, some 15,000 militant farmers staged violent protests in Seoul to protest imports of foreign products, among other things.

ADB to boost financial aid to Indonesia

JAKARTA, Feb 19, (OPECNA): The Manila-based Asian Development Bank (ADB) will increase its financial aid to Indonesia to \$600 million this year from \$60 million in 1988.

According to ADB vice-president Gunther Schultz, the bank will give special priority to agricultural, social and educational projects.

Decline

Schultz said Indonesia had managed to overcome a difficult economic situation following the decline in oil prices a few years ago.

The ADB official, who was received by President Suharto on Monday, said as Indonesia was repaying its debts on schedule, the country's donors remained willing to continue their development assistance.

Talks on future of Latin lending agency hang in balance

WASHINGTON, Feb 19, (Reuters): Three years of high-stakes haggling over a capital increase for the Inter-American Development Bank are reaching a critical juncture, with officials predicting a gloomy future for the lending agency if talks during the next month fail.

Latin American governments, which are already transferring more money to the IADB than they get in new loans, will grow disillusioned with the bank and may even halt repayments if they see no prospect of stepped-up lending, some officials fear.

"Right now we are part of the debt problem, not the solution," said one official who declined to be identified.

Predicament

The IADB's predicament can be seen in preliminary data for 1988. Reflows rose to between \$500 million and \$600 million from \$219 million in 1987, the first year in which the bank was a net recipient of funds from the region it was set up to serve 30 years ago.

The IADB was set up in 1959 to provide development funds for Central and Latin American countries.

Making matters worse, only \$1.6 billion in new loans were approved last year, down from \$2.36 billion in 1987 and a peak of \$3.57 billion in 1984. With the approval rate falling, the cash reflow problem can only get worse, officials say.

Unless these trends are reversed, Latin governments struggling with heavy foreign debts will start to think twice about treating the IADB as a preferred creditor, they say.

Provisions

Nicaragua and Panama fell more than six months behind with interest payments last year, forcing the 44-nation bank to set aside loan-loss provisions for the first time.

Peru has also come close to the 180-day limit, causing concern over what would happen to the bank's earnings and its top-flight credit rating, which enables it to borrow money on the finest terms, if big borrowers give up on the bank.

"Our back is right up against the wall," one source said.

Sterling derives further support this week

US economic activity remains robust

ECONOMIC data releases continued to provide more than ample evidence that US economic activity remains robust. However the implied need to keep interest rates firm failed to support the dollar with counter comments by President Bush that he was not "overly concerned about inflation". The merchandise trade deficit number although better than anticipated was only slightly improved on the previous month. The dollar hesitated initially with gains virtually eroded by the end of the week and the dollar ended the week at DM1.84, ¥126 and £/\$1.77, according to NBK weekly market review.

Completions of new homes rose a much higher than expected 5.9 per cent in December to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 1,517 million units compared to November's 1,432 million. This left completions 6.6 per cent below the December 1987 level of 1,624 million units. For the whole of 1988, completions on a non-seasonally adjusted basis fell 8.4 per cent to 1.53 million units from 1.67 million units in 1987.

Retail sales rose 0.6 per cent in January compared to a revised 0.1 per cent fall in December which was the largest increase in total sales since a 1.3 per cent gain in November. This was a higher rise than the 0.3 per cent increase forecast.

Industrial production rose 0.3 per cent in January as expected compared to a 0.5 per cent increase in December.

Forecast

Capacity utilisation was 84.4 per cent in January, the same as the previous month and slightly above the market forecast.

Business inventories increased by a higher than anticipated 0.9 per cent in December after a 0.4 per cent rise in November. This was the largest monthly gain since a 1.1 per cent increase last August. For the whole of 1988, business inventories rose 7.7 per cent.

Housing starts were up 8 per cent in January compared to a 0.1 per cent increase in December — the largest rise since an 8.6 per cent increase in February 1988. The 1,693 million unit annual rate of starts was the greatest since a 1,720 million unit annual

rate in March 1987.

Merchandise trade — the trade deficit fell to a seasonally adjusted \$11.89 billion in December following a revised downward \$12.22 billion gap in November and this was in line with market forecasts.

Proposals

The budget deficit debate did not get off to a too auspicious start with President Bush's announced budget proposals. The stated budget of \$98.4 billion compares with the Gramm-Rudman-Hollings target of \$100 billion and failed to specify exactly where the expenditure cuts and freezes were to take place.

However, the process of negotiation between the President and Congress is likely to prove difficult particularly in the near-term as Congress tries to identify exactly where public expenditure losses will result. On balance, however, neither side wants to be seen to be undermining discussions and a more conciliatory approach than under President Reagan is expected.

Despite the apparent conflict in policy objectives between President Bush and the central bank, the Federal Reserve will need to continue to tighten its monetary stance as data is indicating that activity remains

sufficiently robust and strong consumer expenditure continues to buoy import demand which is adding to inflationary fears. Therefore interest rate support should continue to keep the dollar within current trading ranges whilst some temporary uptick cannot be ruled out.

Trading ranges for the coming week are: DM1.82-1.87 and yen 124.5-128.0

Support

Sterling derived further support this week from the numerous economic data releases suggesting no early fall in UK interest rates. The exceptions to this were the falls in industrial production and manufacturing output which led to a slight softening of the pound after the figures were released.

The UK equity market was affected by a weak dollar together with worries of upward pressures on interest rates in Europe earlier in the week.

Sterling ended the week at: DM3.26 and £/\$1.78.

Retail sales fell a provisional seasonally adjusted 1.5 per cent in January compared to a 0.3 per cent increase in December. It was the biggest monthly fall since May 1987 and market forecasts were predicting a flat outcome for the January index.

The output prices for manufactured goods increased by a provisional, non-seasonally adjusted one per cent giving a year-on-year rise of 5.3 per cent as against a 0.2 per cent rise in December. This was higher than the 0.6 per cent increase expected.

Opposed

The input prices for manufacturing also rose but only by an adjusted 0.6 per cent which was lower than the forecast of one per cent as opposed to a 0.5 per cent rise in December. This figure gives a year-on-year increase of 5.7 per cent.

Industrial production fell a provisional seasonally adjusted 1.8 per cent in December following a revised 0.6 per cent increase in November. This was larger than the 0.3 per cent decline expected.

Manufacturing production also fell but by 0.7 per cent which was a greater drop than the 0.3 per cent decrease anticipated.

Unemployment fell a provisional, seasonally adjusted 49,300 in January to an eight year low of 1.99 million or 7 per cent of the workforce down from 7.2 per cent in December. The market was expecting a fall of 41,000 in adjusted unemployment. Unemployment has

fallen for 30 consecutive months by a total of 1.15 million since its July 1986 peak.

Average earnings as expected rose a seasonally adjusted 8.75 per cent in the year to December, the same increase as in November.

The public sector debt repayment for January was £6,905 million compared to a revised £2,480 million in December.

Measure

Britain's main inflation measure rose 0.6 per cent in January compared to December's 0.3 per cent increase to give an annual growth rate of 7.5 per cent. This was the highest increase since the 8 per cent rise in August 1982.

The large number of data releases over the last week indicated that whilst economic activity shown in retail sales, manufacturing and industrial output are beginning to turn down to the high interest rates, inflationary pressures, with retail prices at an all time since 1982, have as yet failed to respond. The continuing fall in unemployment and high wage settlements indicate a strong labour constraint which could maintain a wage-price spiral.

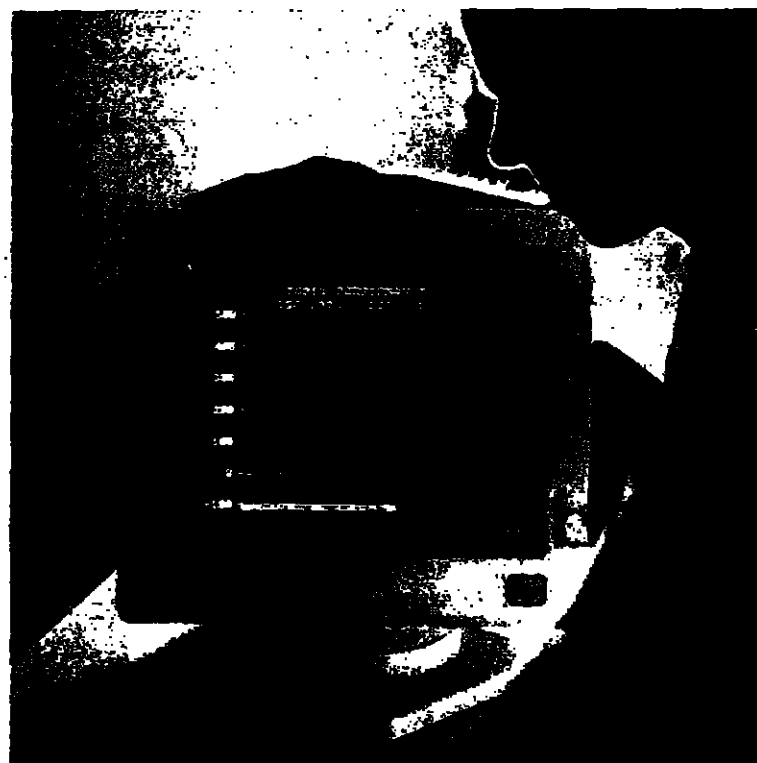
World Business Summary

Third World poverty 'a bomb ready to explode'

GENEVA, Feb 19, (Reuters): Argentine Foreign Minister Dante Caputo said yesterday that Third World poverty was a bomb ready to explode. No one could reasonably be expected to travel unconcerned on a ship carrying a bomb somewhere on deck. "Yet this is the social and economic situation of the Third World. It is like a bomb to explode on this earth," he told 1,400 delegates from over 100 nations attending the annual meeting of the UN Human Rights Commission. Caputo, addressing the commission as president of the United Nations General Assembly, said major progress had been achieved towards disarmament and the solution of regional conflicts thanks to improved superpower relations. There was more interdependence in the world but that was no guarantee of peace when two-thirds of mankind enjoyed neither freedom nor well-being, he added. There had never been so many democracies in Latin America but they were "poor democracies" and the continent's new-found freedom was threatened by left- and right-wing terrorists. Caputo cited the case of his own country where a far-left guerrilla group attacked a military base on the outskirts of Buenos Aires on Jan 23. Unlike what happened during what he called Argentina's "dark night" when a military dictatorship ruthlessly suppressed leftist guerrillas, Argentina would respond to terrorist aggression while exercising the fullest respect for human rights, he said.

Egypt keeps oil prices unchanged

CAIRO, Feb 19, (AP): Egypt decided today to keep oil export prices for the second half of February at the Feb 1-15 levels, a senior Oil Ministry official said. The official, who declined to be named, said that the top-grade gulf of Suez blend remained at \$14.75 a barrel, Belayim at \$13.90 a barrel, Ras Baran at \$12.75 a barrel and Ras Charab at \$12.45 a barrel. He said the prices were valid from Feb 16-28. The prices for the first half of February, which also unchanged from the prices for the second half of January. Egypt is not a member of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries. It fixes its prices in semi-monthly reviews in light of the organisation's policies and world market conditions.



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تداول في السوق

Economists believe '89 will be a make-or-break year for co-operation

Louvre currency accord faces stiffest test

LONDON, Feb 19. (Reuters): Two years ago in Paris, over a champagne dinner at the Louvre, financial leaders of the West's five richest nations called a halt to a 14-year experiment with freely floating exchange rates.

Since then the "Louvre accord," an ambitious attempt to co-ordinate economic policy, has survived the world stock markets crash of 1987 and curtailed wild currency swings that plagued the 1970s and the early years of the Reagan presidency.

But critics say finance ministers have failed in their goal of correcting world trade imbalances and promises to co-operate on fiscal policy remain largely unfulfilled.

Intractable

A daily reminder is the intractable US budget deficit and many economists believe 1989 will be a make-or-break year for co-operation. Doubts about the concept of targeting exchange rates, the core of the Louvre accord, are surfacing.

"Exchange rates were the easiest thing to target in 1987,"

said Paul Chertkow, chief international economist at brokers Drexel Burnham Lambert Inc. "It was an easy option and everyone thought everything else would fall into place. It didn't."

The Louvre accord was struck by finance ministers and central bank governors of the United States, Japan, France, Britain and West Germany over dinner on Feb 21, 1987.

The next day's communiqué, also signed by Canada, spoke of co-operation to "foster stability of exchange rates around current levels," a form of words that disguised a secretly agreed system of targeting rates or "managed float."

Collapse

It spelt the end of the era of freely floating exchange rates that followed the collapse in the early 1970s of the Bretton Woods and Smithsonian systems of fixed currency parities.

"There is little nostalgia for the Bretton Woods system of fixed rates," said Richard O'Brien, chief economist at American Express Bank.

"Equally we are no longer under the illusion that free floating brings much benefit. A careful managed float is the order of the day."

Some economists disagree. Martin Feldstein, former presidential economic adviser to Ronald Reagan, said in December the dollar's value should be left to the market. "The time has come to abandon the policy of trying to target the dollar."

The cost of targeting is considerable. Central banks have spent \$10 billion this year to stop the dollar rising.

Commitment

The Group of Seven (G-7) nations now co-ordinating policy — the original six signatories of the Louvre accord plus Italy — stress their commitment to the Louvre strategy.

But the ground is shifting. "The idea of targeting exchange rates will not be publicly abandoned," said Chertkow. "But there has been some backtracking and the G-7 has moved to looking at other economic goals."

The accord is generally seen as having notched up successes:

— The seven have held currencies relatively steady through intervention and closer co-ordination of monetary policy. The strategy stopped the dollar going into a free fall after a 1985 pact, the Plaza accord, succeeded in pushing the currency down.

Stability

— Currency stability has aided world growth and investment. Protectionism, rife in 1985 before Reagan abandoned his "hands off policy" towards the dollar, has abated.

— The Louvre accord has imposed discipline on G-7 nations, with the turning point coming with the Crash of '87 when a public row between the United States and West Germany unnerved markets.

"The crash focused central bankers' and finance ministers' attention on policy co-operation rather than targeting exchange rates for their own sake," said David Morrison, chief international economist at Goldman Sachs International Ltd.

Economists argue some nations, particularly France and Britain, originally "put the cart before the horse" by targeting rates in an unpublished band of plus or minus five per cent.

System

Now there are increasing signs that G-7 nations are shying away from a more rigid or institutionalised system of target zones, emphasising instead broader policy co-ordination.

G-7 talks earlier this month gave the clearest sign yet of a shift as ministers stressed the priority of fighting inflation.

"The Louvre accord has changed," said Morrison. "There is a slight relegation of the need for exchange rate stability for its own sake and a move towards co-operative policy changes."

"If that proved to be successful, the result would in any case be less exchange rate instability."

The dollar was in fact trading last Friday at almost exactly the same level against the mark as on the eve of the accord.

"But that," says Chertkow, "is more luck than judgement."

Al Kazemi opens carpets exhibition

By Hamid Siddiqui

THE chairman of Al Kazemi Group, Abdel Latif Al Kazemi, opened a Pakistani carpets exhibition at the Kuwait Meridian Hotel on Saturday. On display are a variety of hand-knotted carpets and rugs from Pakistan with prices ranging from KD 120 to KD 1,200.

Carpets and rugs, mostly hand-made from the very beginning have been the prestigious export items of Pakistan. The cities of Lahore, Karachi, Multan and the district suburbs are the manufacturing places of hand-knotted carpets in Pakistan. Hundreds and thousands of people are engaged and employed in this traditional export industry.

Export

Pakistan's total export of carpets and rugs amount to \$250 million to \$300 million out of which exports amounting to \$0.3 million goes to Kuwait which is quite nominal as compared to Kuwait's total import of carpets which ranges from \$75 million to \$80 million.

Pakistan mainly exports this



Abdel Latif Al Kazemi (centre) pictured with other guests during the opening ceremony.

item to the advanced markets of the United States, Japan, UK and West Germany.

The commercial section of the

Pakistani embassy plans to hold on regular basis many more carpet exhibitions with a view to enhancing Pakistan's exports.

The exhibition at the Meridian Hotel, organised by Al Rajaib Trading Establishment, will continue for one week.

Foreign borrowing is enslaving, says Montazeri

NICOSIA, Feb 19. (Reuters): Iran's designated future leader, Ayatollah Hossein Ali Montazeri, has said the private sector, rather than foreign money, should spearhead the country's post-war reconstruction.

"If we start thinking about foreign borrowing it would mean selling the country to foreigners," the Iranian news agency IRNA, monitored in Nicosia, quoted him as saying in a speech to bazaar merchants.

"Those who have rushed to us to offer so-called help for reconstruction — where were they during the war and hardships? They would not help us one bit."

Iranian leaders say they will use foreign help to repair billions of dollars of damage caused by eight years of war with Iraq, but they have differed on whether Iran should also seek foreign credits.

Montazeri, 66, chosen in 1985 to succeed Ayatollah Khomeini as Iran's supreme leader, said instead of borrowing the government should give a free hand to the private sector to revive trade and industry.

"The government cannot be a good businessman... it is committing a big mistake by taking over trade affairs which brings a lot of harm to the society," he said.

Government officials, he said, should learn from Soviet authorities "who after 70 years have come to the conclusion that the nationalisation of trade affairs was the cause of economic backwardness."

Algeria to launch gas export drive

ALGIERS, Feb 19. (OPECNA): OPEC member Algeria is embarking on a drive to find new markets for its natural gas liquids in the United States, Japan and Europe in a bid to increase foreign exchange revenues.

Details of the scheme were discussed here on Wednesday at a meeting of the newly established National Advisory Board whose membership includes the ministers of energy and petroleum, chemical industries and foreign affairs.

The board also discussed the state of the country's energy resources, conservation and rationalisation of oilfield exploitation and a programme to promote gas to substitute oil. It also considered technological options for the development of the country's energy resources.

The board was set up to map out a comprehensive energy policy and to take steps to ensure its implementation so that hydrocarbons could play their due role in the new economic integration programme.

Brazil not considering moratorium despite low reserves

BRASILIA, Brazil, Feb 19. (AP): Brazil is not considering a new moratorium on foreign debt payments despite low cash reserves and a lack of new loans from foreign creditors, a government spokesman said yesterday.

Geraldo Moura, a spokesman in the Finance Ministry, told the Associated Press that Brazil wants to avoid a direct confrontation with foreign creditors, similar to the one in 1987-88, when it suspended interest payments on its foreign debt for 10 months.

"A moratorium is not a solution for an instrument of negotiation," Moura said.

Debt

Brazil's foreign debt is \$115 billion, the largest in the Third World. The government has said debt payments this year will total between \$12 and \$14 billion.

However, the Finance Ministry has warned in recent months that Brazil could again suspend debt payments if cash reserves — unofficially estimated between \$4 and \$5 billion — fall too low.

Brazil is to pay \$1.3 billion due in March to private banks and the International Monetary Fund.

To make its March payment, Moura said the country was counting on the release of \$600 million in credits by the Japanese government, plus \$500 million from the World Bank and \$600 million from private banks.

Reserves

The level of reserves depends largely on the success of a radical anti-inflation plan announced last month.

The plan aimed at curbing 1,000 per cent inflation by freezing wages and prices and by making sharp cuts in government spending.

Last month, the government delayed a week in paying \$550 million in interest payments, generating rumours of a new moratorium.

The Rio daily newspaper O Globo reported yesterday that a committee of creditor banks in New York announced the release of a \$600-million loan offered last year under a recent debt rescheduling agreement.

The \$82-billion agreement calls for the rescheduling over 20 years of debt due between 1987 and 1993, lower interest rates and \$5.2 billion in new loans.

New Arab trade groupings face long road to success

DUBAI, Feb 19. (Reuters): Spurred by harsh reality, the Arab world is seeking new unity through economic blocs but Gulf economists and officials say they face formidable problems to achieve their aims.

Five North African nations joined forces last week to set up one trade bloc, while four countries at the other end of the Arab world created a similar economic group.

Economics not political ideology form the building blocks of the new structures, but economists said politics, internal economies and trade imbalances were barriers which needed to be overcome for unity to mean much in practical terms.

Officials cited the eight-year-old Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC), grouping Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE), as an example.

Problems

The GCC, as the first Arab sub-regional grouping, recognised the problems it faced — uneven economic development, weak financial services, a lack of real trade flows and a tendency for politics to be a stronger binding factor than trade.

Economists said these failings applied equally to the groups set up by Algeria, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco and Tunisia and by Egypt, Iraq, Jordan and North Yemen.

"The major cause for the failure of inter-Arab trade liberation has not been a lack of short-term support or agreements but rather the absence of diversification of the Arab world's economic base," Arab Banking Corp economist said in a survey of the problem.

Swamped

One UAE official, who declined to be identified, said the GCC moved slowly in dismantling barriers to economic integration to enable less-developed states, such as Oman, to protect local industries and avoid being swamped by the bigger economic powers, such as Saudi Arabia and Kuwait.

The economists said this was one reason they were not optimistic about the Arab Co-operation Council (ACC) of Egypt, Jordan, Iraq and North Yemen.

"There is no complementarity between the economies of the four nations," said one economist at another Arab bank in the Gulf.

Iraqi trade with Jordan has been high but only because of the Gulf war when Iraq used Jordan as a re-export-import point.

Trade flows within the group are low. International Monetary Fund statistics show, for example, that in 1986 Egypt's main Arab export partner was Saudi Arabia and its main import partner was the Sudan. Neither country is a member of the group.

That year Cairo's exports to Arab nations totalled \$334 million, only 2.7 per cent of its total exports. Its imports from Arab states reached \$166 million — only 4.4 per cent of its total imports.

Patterns

The other states in the new groups show similar patterns.

"If there is enough of a trade flow, then a trade bloc could make it more efficient," said an economist from a Gulf bank.

The Maghreb nations' economies in North Africa fit better in this respect but only if they can be weaned from over-reliance on the European Economic Community (EEC) economy, the economists said.

If trade barriers were lowered, Morocco, for example, could better export its citrus fruit production to other Arab states instead of competing with Spain and Portugal in the EEC market.

Slow development in important sectors such as machinery and manufactured goods industries also distorts policy, they said.

If Arab states exported all their machine and transport equipment output to each other it would cover only four to five per cent of their import needs in these goods. For manufactured goods the relevant figure would be around 10 per cent, said the economists.

The United States, which contends the stimulants pose no health hazard, hit \$100 million worth of EEC exports with 100 per cent tariffs when the EEC ban took effect January 21.

EEC foreign ministers had threatened to take counter-retaliatory measures on Monday by slapping stiff tariffs on \$100 million of US goods.

Talks

However, Andriessen said "spirit" demonstrated in the talks here would contribute to a "de-escalation" of the trade conflict.

US officials said they did not expect the EEC to impose the reprisal measures at the meeting of the EEC council in Brussels on Monday.

Andriessen said the task force would be made up of small group of high-level officials from both sides and will be charged with settling the trade battle within 75 days.

US and EEC officials characterised the talks as very constructive.

"We made substantial progress," Hills said.

However, both sides maintained long-standing positions on the hormones issues, which has threatened to erupt into a major trade war between United States and Western Europe.

"There was no complete solution to the problem," an administration official said. "What's happening is you have a cooling off period. No one at this point has compromised their principles."

"But it's the first time in 18 months that there has been good will and a spirit on both sides to cool off and de-escalate," the official said.

The Bush administration did not retreat from its position that

the EEC ban on hormone-treated beef is unjustified on health grounds and which US officials have said has created the impression that US meat is unsafe.

"We feel very, very strongly that US beef is one of the healthiest," said the US official, who asked not to be identified.

"The principal US feeling that is very important to uphold is a government should not ban a product based on no evidence," the official said.

The US sanctions on seven categories of EEC food imports will remain in effect, US officials said. However, Washington will consider lifting the sanctions in part or entirely if the two sides work out a way to ship US meat to the community, they said.

The ministers failed to agree on having an impartial panel rule on the beef dispute, the official said.

KUWAIT

BANK	SECTOR	P.CLS	LT	HIGH	LOW	VOL	TRADE
NATIONAL	BANK	1.070	1.080	1.080	1.080	15000	3
GULF	BANK	0.355	0.350	0.350	0.350	10000	1
COMMERCIAL	BK	0.260	0.260	0.260	0.260	70000	5
AHLI	BANK	0.280	0.290	0.290	0.285	340000	11
B.K.M.E.		0.360					
K.R.E.B.		0.370					
BURGAN	BANK	0.255	0.255	0.255	0.255	20000	1
K.F.HOUSE		0.425	0.425	0.425	0.425	10000	1

INVESTMENT	SECTOR	P.CLS	LT	HIGH	LOW	VOL	TRADE
KUT INV.	CO.	0.102					
K.F.T.C.I.C.		0.210					
K.J.I.C.		0.140					
COM.FACILITIES		0.480					
AHLIAH INV.		0.000					
I.F.A.		0.055	0.057	0.057	0.054	160000	3
I.W.	PEARL KUT	0.085					

INSURANCE	SECTOR	P.CLS	LT	HIGH	LOW	VOL	TRADE
KUT INSURANCE		0.700					
GULF INSURANCE		0.360					
AHLIAH INS.	CO.	0.560					
WARSA INS.	CO.	0.390					

REAL EST	SECTOR	P.CLS	LT	HIGH	LOW	VOL	TRADE
KUT R.E.S.T.	CO.	0.144	0.140	0.140	0.140	20000	1
UNI R.E.S.T.	CO.	0.056					
NAT R.E.S.T.	CO.	0.192					
SALAHIA R.E.		0.080					
KUT R.E.I.CON		0.000					

INDUSTRY	SECTOR	P.CLS	LT	HIGH	LOW	VOL	TRADE
NAT IND.	CO.	0.540					
KUT N.P. IND.		0.320					
KUT CEMENT CO.		0.170					
REF. IND.		0.405					
N.A.N.T.CO.		0.000					
GULF CABLE		0.960					
K.P.H. IND. CO.		0.160	0.160	0.160	0.160	20000	1
CONT. MARINE		0.280					
K.SH.REP.CO.		0.045					

SERVICES	SECTOR	P.CLS	LT	HIGH	LOW	VOL	TRADE
OVERLAND TRANS		0.082					
K.N.C. CO.		0.180					
KUT HOTELS CO.		0.170					
P.WAREHOUSING		0.118	0.116	0.116	0.116	20000	1
COM.MKT.CMPX.		0.016					
MOBILE TELE.		0.280					
KUT COMPUTER		0.154					

FOOD	SECTOR	P.CLS	LT	HIGH	LOW	VOL	TRADE
LIVESTOCK T.T.		0.238					
UNIT FISHERIES		0.140					
UNIT POLTRY		0.228					
KUT FOODS		0.225					
AGRI. FOOD PRD.		0.150					

NON-KUT	SECTOR	P.CLS	LT	HIGH	LOW	VOL	TRADE
BHN. INTER. BK		0.069					
BHN. N.EAST. BK		0.052	0.052	0.052	0.052	280000	2
UNIT. GULF BK		0.000					
COAST INVEST.		0.088					
A.G. INV. CORP		0.034					
FIRST GULF BK		0.550					
GULF MEDICAL		0.033					

COMPANIES LISTED ON THE PARALLEL MARKET	P.CLS	LT	HIGH	LOW	VOL	TRADE
FINANCIAL SECTOR						
GULF INTL INS	0.000					
ARAB INT CO.	0.000					
SHARJAH INS	0.000					
GULF UNION INS	0.000					
R.K.WHITE CMT	0.000					
ANMAN CEMENT	0.000					

INDUSTRIAL	SECTOR	P.CLS	LT	HIGH	LOW	VOL	TRADE
B.FUJAIH CEMENT		0.000					
C-SHARJAH CEMENT		0.010					
D-GULF CEMENT		0.010					

INDUSTRIAL	SECTOR	P.CLS	LT	HIGH	LOW	VOL	TRADE
IND. INTER. BK		0.069					
BHN. N.EAST. BK		0.052	0.052	0.052	0.052	280000	2
UNIT. GULF BK		0.000					
COAST INVEST.		0.088					
A.G. INV. CORP		0.034					
FIRST GULF BK		0.550					
GULF MEDICAL		0.033					

COMPANIES LISTED ON THE PARALLEL MARKET	P.CLS	LT	HIGH	LOW	VOL	TRADE
FINANCIAL SECTOR						
GULF INTL INS	0.000					
ARAB INT CO.	0.000					
SHARJAH INS	0.000					
GULF UNION INS	0.000					
R.K.WHITE CMT	0.000					
ANMAN CEMENT	0.000					

INDUSTRIAL	SECTOR	P.CLS	LT	HIGH	LOW	VOL	TRADE
B.FUJAIH CEMENT		0.000					
C-SHARJAH CEMENT		0.010					
D-GULF CEMENT		0.010					

ADDITIONAL STOCK EXCHANGE						
COMPANIES LISTED ON THE PARALLEL MARKET						
FINANCIAL SECTOR	P.CLS	LT	HIGH	LOW	VOL	TRADE
-GULF INTL INS	0.000	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
-ABAR INT CO	0.000	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

ARAB TIMES Classifieds

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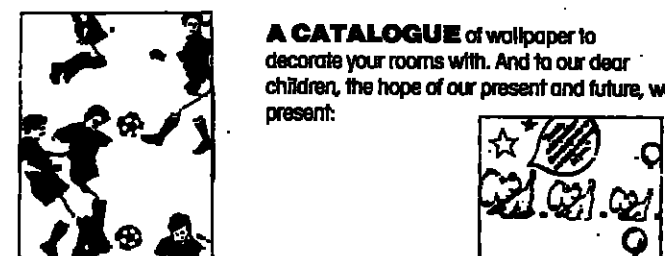
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Cars

MINISUBISHI Lancer, '83 model, registered up to 21.12.89, silver metallic, lady-driven. Tele. Mr. Khan, 3928743, 3911320, 8.30 am - 1 pm, 4-8 pm.
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NISSAN Stanza 1.8, '83 model, automatic, with A.C., sunroof, radio, cassette, in very good condition. KD550, cash. Tele. Mohd. Zahoor, 5327126, after 4 pm.
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MINISUBISHI Pajero, '87 model, 15 months' old, manual, agency maintained, in excellent condition, for immediate sale. Cash or by instalments. Interested persons tele. 2626111, 2661122, 9 am - 1 pm, 5-7 pm.
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Daugherty and Price take Cavaliers past 76ers

NEW YORK, Feb. 19, (AP) — Brad Daugherty scored 24 points and Mark Price added 22 as the Cleveland Cavaliers coasted to their 17th consecutive home court victory, 118-100 over the Philadelphia 76ers last night.

The Cavaliers led 64-40 at half-time on Ron Harper's 15 points and Price's 14. Cleveland went on to improve to 38-12, the best record in the National Basketball Association.

Knicks 125, Nets 115
Gerald Wilkins scored 19 of his 29 points in the first half and the New York Knicks rolled to their 18th consecutive home victory, 125-115 over the New Jersey Nets.

The Knicks, with the NBA's best home record of 21-1, are two victories shy of the team record of 20 straight set in 1968-69 and 1972-73.

Hornets 119, Pacers 114
Kelly Tripucka scored 30 points and Rex Chapman added a season-high 27 as the Charlotte Hornets handed the Indiana Pacers their 10th straight loss, 119-114.

Led by Chapman's outside shooting, the Hornets went on a 17-7 run late in the third quarter to turn a 72-70 deficit into a 87-79 lead.

Rockets 105, Mavericks 94
Mike Woodson scored eight points during a 23-10 run that opened the third quarter, sending the Houston Rockets past the Dallas Mavericks 105-94.

Houston stretched a three-point halftime lead to 74-59 with six minutes left in the third quarter, and the Mavericks never got closer than eight the rest of the way.

Jazz 107, Spurs 93
Mark Malone scored 32 points and Mark Eaton tied a career high with 14 blocked shots and the Utah Jazz overcame a 15-point deficit to defeat the San Antonio Spurs 107-93.

John Stockton added 22 points and 11 assists for the Jazz, while Frank Brickowski scored 22 points and Albert King 20 for the Spurs, who lost for the sixth straight time.

Sonics 116, Trail Blazers 115
Xavier McDaniel scored 23 of his season-high 37 points in the second half, leading the Seattle SuperSonics to a 116-115 victory over Portland, spoiling the debut of Rick Adelman as coach of the Trail Blazers.

Warriors 121, Pistons 119 OT
Clutch free throws in the final 27 seconds by Rod Higgins, Steve Alford and Chris Mullin lifted the Golden State Warriors to a 121-119 overtime victory and spoiled Mark Aguirre's debut with the Detroit Pistons.

The Warriors posted their 10th straight home victory while ending Detroit's win streak at seven games despite Dennis Rodman's career-high totals of 32 points and 21 rebounds.

Bullets 98, Clippers 93
Jeff Malone scored six of his 20 points in the last 4:35 of the game and Bernard King added 18 as the Washington Bullets held off the stubborn Los Angeles Clippers 98-93.

The Clippers, paced by rookie Charles Smith's 17 points, suffered their fourth straight defeat and their 23rd in the last 24 games.

Suns 120, Kings 101
Kevin Johnson had 24 points, 10 rebounds and 12 assists and Tom Chambers scored 28 points, leading the Phoenix Suns to their fifth consecutive victory, a 120-101 decision over the Sacramento Kings.

Jeff Hornacek added 20 points and Eddie Johnson 19, including four 3-point baskets, tying a franchise record for the Suns.

Results
Charlotte 119, Indiana 114
Cleveland 118, Philadelphia 100
New York 125, New Jersey 115
Houston 105, Dallas 94
Utah 107, San Antonio 93
Golden State 121, Detroit 93
Washington 98, LA Clippers 93
Seattle 116, Portland 115
Phoenix 120, Sacramento 101

Ryder Cup duo return for Desert Classic

DUBAI: Ryder Cup stars Sam Torrance and Howard Clark, who teamed up for an historic victory at the Emirates Golf Club last year, return to the Middle East's first championship course for the £250,000 Karl Litten Overseas Desert Classic in Dubai from March 2 to 5.

The two multiple tournament winners join European Open champion Ian Woosnam in a line-up of 120 players to chase a £41,660 winner's cheque in the region's first PGA European Tour event.

Followed
Scott Torrance and Yorkshireman Clark joined forces to beat Australians Rodger Davis and Graham Marsh in the £150,000 East vs West Emirates Challenge which followed the official opening of the Emirates Golf Club last March.

Both players said at the time that the region's first grass-champ-

SHOAIB AND AMER HIT SHELL XI FOR HALF CENTURIES

Imran's 98-minute ton lifts Pakistan



Imran: hit 17 fours and two sixes

NAPIER, New Zealand, Feb. 19, (Reuters) — Imran Khan, batting at number eight, struck a thunderous 104 to revive his struggling Pakistani cricketers on the first day of their three-day match against a Shell XI selection at McLean Park today.

All-rounder Imran came in at 166 for six and unleashed a thrilling 98-minute onslaught which spurred the touring team to 282 for nine at the close.

Emerging
Pakistan's captain cracked 17 fours and two sixes, his innings reaching a peak in the penultimate over of the day when he thrashed the second new ball used by Steve Brown for 26, including five fours and a six, to reach his hundred.

Imran was out in the last over, caught by Gavin Larsen off Gary Robertson. The wicket was Robertson's fifth of the innings, good reward for the left-arm pacer's fiery 19.4 overs from which he emerged with five for 44.

Pakistan, who were reduced to eight for two after winning the toss, had scored slowly until Imran's arrival.

Shoaib Mohammad (56) and Amer Malik (81) repaired the early damage with a third-wicket

stand of 123, taking advantage of a good pitch and fine conditions for some useful practice.

Amer played attractively at times, batting for 177 minutes and facing 160 balls in an innings containing 12 boundaries, while Shoaib made his runs from 89 balls in 111 minutes.

Imran apart, the rest of the Pakistanis failed to make the most of their opportunity, and among wickets needlessly thrown away were Rizwan-uz-Zaman and Tauseef Ahmed to run out mix-ups.

Meanwhile, the New Zealand cricket selectors today named an unusually large squad of 15 players for the third and final Test against Pakistan, which begins on Friday at Eden Park in Auckland.

Batsman Mark Greatbatch, who broke a thumb while taking a catch in the Shell Trophy match last month, has been included, while veteran left-arm spinner Stephen Boock has been recalled.

All-rounder Dipak Patel retained his place despite scoring a duck and two in the second Test.

The squad will be trimmed to 12 on the eve of the Test, officials said.

The first Test of the series was washed out, with the second Test ending in a draw.

The New Zealand squad is: John Wright (captain), Stephen Boock, John Bracewell, Ewen Chatfield, Jeff Crowe, Martin Crowe, Mark Greatbatch, Richard Hadlee, Andrew Jones, Danny Morrison, Dipak Patel, Ian Smith, Martin Snedden, Robert Vance, Willie Watson.

Scoreboard
PAKISTAN first innings
Mudassar Nazir c Blair b Robertson 5
Rizwan-uz-Zaman run out 2
Shoaib Mohammad c Priest b Robertson 56
Amer Malik c Blair b Priest 81
Salim Malik c Blair b Priest 0
Salim Youssif c Larsen b Robertson 10
Abdul Qadir c Blair b Robertson 4
Imran Khan c Larsen b Robertson 104
Tauseef Ahmed run out 2
Salim Jaffer not out 14
Extras (b-1 lb-5 nb-8) 14
Total (nine wickets) 282
Fall of wickets: 1-82-8-131-4-131-5-155-6-166-7-166-8-194-9-282
To bat: Aaqib Javed
Bowling to date: Bayler 17-3-47-0, Robertson 19-4-6-44-5 (nb-4), Brown 17-3-82-0 (nb-4), Larsen 8-1-24-0, Priest 26-7-79-2.

SHELL XI: D. White, P. Dobbs, G. Larsen, R. Latham, B. Young, T. Blais, C. Kugler (captain), S. Brown, G. Robertson, M. Priest, F. Beyeler.

Hawks score easy win over Casuals

CASUALS Cricket Club lost for the second successive week when they were comfortably beaten by Hawks in the KOC Thursday League.

Casuals, batting first, opened the innings with Kevin Wells and Ray Fernando but disaster struck in the first over when Fernando was run out before even facing a ball.

Ron Seward came to the wicket and was looking sharp, scoring a brisk 21 before a good delivery from Waheedi had him caught behind. Tim Stafford lasted only three balls and when Wells (12) went with the first ball of the next over Casuals had lost three wickets with the score on 38.

The recently productive partnership of Simon Clements and Richard Snowden then settled in and started to reshape the

innings. A magnificent six from Clements highlighted his recent form. Snowden looked capable when he was bowled for 22 in attempting a late cut and disaster struck quickly when Steve Anderson was run out without scoring.

The same fate befell the luckless Dave Hodgson. Peter White hit an aggressive 7 but Casuals finished on 105 with Clements 31 not out.

Chipped
Waheedi was the pick of the Hawks bowlers with a good return of 2 for 12 of his spell of 6 overs.

It was never a hard task for Hawks but Casuals bowlers did not make it any easier. Steve Anderson bowled as fast as he has all season and is looking in particularly good form at the

moment. His haul of 4 for 28 off 6 overs was well deserved. Behind the stumps Ray Fernando had another good game with two good catches and several acrobatic stops.

Dave Hodgson relieved his reputation with a good catch and Ron Seward chipped in by bowling Tareq for 10. Hawks had slumped to 56 for 5 and, with Snowden and Seward both bowling well, could have been in trouble but for the calm influence of Chris.

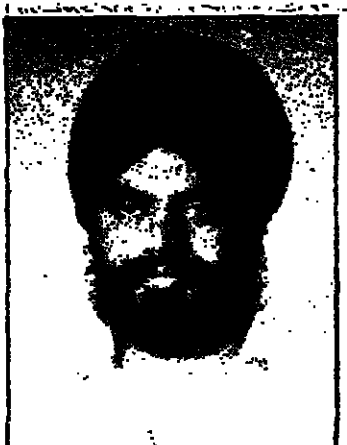
While his teammates flailed he built up his innings in the just required fashion. At the end he was joined by Ralph DeNise (13) who survived three catching chances off the bowling of Wells before helping his team reach the target. Chris was undefeated on 46 and had played his part in an enjoyable and sporting match.

HCC move into YMCA final

HYDERABAD: Cricket Club (HCC) reached the final of the YMCA Cricket Tournament for the second straight year with an eight-wicket victory over Bright Stars in the semifinals at the Ahmadi Governorate ground on Friday.

P.S. Sethi and M. Bastaki featured in an unbroken 124-run partnership to take HCC to the easy win and into the final, to be played on Kuwait's National Day.

Fielders
Sethi and Bastaki helped erase memories of the half dozen dropped catches by the HCC fielders when Bright Stars batted. Ajit Nair (57) and Mohammed Ali (47) benefitted from these dropped catches and put on 87 runs together for Bright Stars. Bright Stars were 100 for two



at one stage but the introduction of spinners by HCC skipper Saleem saw four more batsmen lose their wickets and the run-

rate restricted. Mathews took three wickets for eight runs in four overs as Bright Stars managed 142 for the loss of six wickets in the 16 allotted overs.

HCC started shakily, losing both their openers by the time the score reached 20. Mohammed Ali dismissed both Masood and Rodney.

Risky
Sethi and Bastaki started to lift HCC out of the doldrums with some risky singles, which induced overthrows and also put pressure on the Bright Stars fielders.

Sethi reached his 50 first with the help of five fours and a six. Bastaki was not far behind and completed his half-century before the winning run was hit in the 19th over.

Claar triumphs

HONG KONG, Feb. 19, (Reuters) — American Brian Claar, four shots off the pace overnight, stormed to his first-ever golf victory with a last round of 67 to take the Hong Kong Open championship by one shot today.

Claar, 29-year-old rookie of the year on the United States PGA Tour in 1986 but never a winner before, completed his last round in three under par for a total of 274.

"I have been at the game for quite a long time and thought a thousand times of giving up," said Claar, four shots behind overnight leader Howard Clark of Britain. "But right now I am glad I did not. I am so pleased."

Norman takes Masters title

MELBOURNE, Feb. 19, (Reuters) — Greg Norman cruised to his fifth Australian Masters golf title today and declared himself back to his best.

"This win convinces me I've got my game back," Norman said. "Everything's clicked back into place. I can't tell you how good it feels."

A final five-under-par round of 68 gave him a total of 280 — 12-under-par and the second lowest 72-hole total in the 11-year history of the event.

Cheerful, burly English amateur Russell Clayton took second spot, five strokes back after a last round of 75.

Clayton finished one shot ahead of Australians Bob

Shearer (76) and Craig Parry (72).

Norman sealed his victory with four birdies in a row on the back nine.

Clayton, the 23-year-old English amateur champion, led or shared the lead for the first three days, but said he would not turn professional.

"It's nice to help my confidence, but it won't change my long term plans," he said. "His immediate aim is to win a place in the British Walker Cup team to meet America later this year."

Local hero Shearer bogeyed the final hole where yesterday he recorded a disastrous triple-bogey.

Elkington takes 2-shot lead in Open

LA JOLLA, Calif., Feb. 19, (Reuters) — Australian Steve Elkington, looking for his first victory on the US PGA Tour, birdied his final hole yesterday to take a two-shot lead going into the final round of the San Diego Open.

Elkington used an eagle three on the 533-yard 13th hole to assume the lead and then birdied the 18th hole to double his advantage over American Greg Twigg.

The Australian toured the 7,021-yard south course at Torrey Pines in five-under-par 67. Twigg posted a blistering round of 64 that moved him to 14-under-par 202 after 54 holes.

"I'm playing well so there's no reason I shouldn't have a good chance tomorrow," said Elkington, who hopes to end his three-year wait for a title by collecting the \$126,000 first prize today.

"I feel like it's something I'm working toward. I'll be disappointed if I don't win tomorrow," he said.

Rolled
Elkington escaped disaster on the final hole when his second shot to the par-five hole rolled back down a hill and stopped an inch short of going into a greenside pond. He then pitched to within 15 feet and sank the putt for his birdie.

Twigg moved into contention for his first title with his course-tying round. Twigg, who grew up in San Diego, had eight birdies and no bogeys on his card.

"I played just the way you'd want to play this course," he said. "I know the greens so well here being from San Diego that I put the ball in the right position to make putts all day."

"It means a lot to me to do well here," Twigg added. "I hope the excitement doesn't overwhelm me."

American Mark Wiebe stood three shots back at 13-under-par with his compatriots Johnny Miller and John McCormish another stroke back at 204.

Hawaiian Open

OAHU, Hawaii, Feb. 19, (Reuters) — Sherri Turner of the United States came from behind with a six-under-par 66 final round to win the \$300,000 Hawaiian Open women's golf tournament by four strokes yesterday.

American Sara Ann McGretick, who had shared the second round lead with compatriot Alice Ritzman, was second at 209 after a 71 for the day.

Swiss skiers dominate Cup race

LAKE LOUISE, Alberta, Feb. 19, (AP) — Swiss teammates Michela Figini and Maria Walliser continued their dominance of women's downhill skiing on the World Cup circuit yesterday, finishing 1-2 in the husky downhill.

In a race where skis played a major role, Figini, the current leader in downhill standings, finished first in 1 minute, 42.36 seconds. Walliser was second in 1:42.51, followed by Michaela Gerg of West Germany in 1:42.71.

"I had some problems in the technical part ... but I'm happy how my skis worked today," said Figini.

"I thank my servicemen ... it was so difficult for him with the changing conditions but today he was great."

After three days of bitterly cold temperatures, the weather warmed up to about 14 degrees Fahrenheit (5°C) yesterday. Bright sunshine made it feel even warmer.

Remaining
Three Canadians finished in the top eight — Karen Percy was sixth in 1:43.33, Kerrin Lee Seventh in 1:43.42 and Lucie Larocque eighth in 1:43.60.

The victory increased Figini's lead over Walliser in the downhill standings to 24 points — 126 to 102 — with two downhill remaining, including another one here today.

Each victory is worth 25 points. It was Figini's fourth victory of the season and her third win in Canada in the last three years.

Walliser, who has won the other two of the six downhill titles this season, skied her best run of the week but said she still had problems in the middle, technical sections.

"But I think this was a special race for me because I am still not feeling well and I knew I maybe wasn't prepared to win so second is OK."

While the Swiss had the right skis, taking four of the top five placings, there were some questions about the Canadian skis.



Biondi after winning one of his gold medals at the 1988 Olympics.

Flo Jo and Biondi clinch top honours

PORTLAND, Oregon, Feb. 19, (UPI) — Three-time Olympic sprint gold medalist Florence Griffith-Joyner and seven-time swimming medalist Matt Biondi were named yesterday the US Olympic Committee's Sports-woman and Sportsman of the Year.

Griffith-Joyner edged out teen swimming sensation Janet Evans by a mere six points — 561 to 555. Speed skater Bonnie Blair finished third with 428 points, while diver Michele Mitchell was fourth and gymnast Phoebe Mills fifth.

Biondi, who won five gold medals in the Summer Olympics, also claimed the honour by six points, edging out diver Greg Louganis by a 506-500 count. Figure skater Brian Boitano was third with 32 points, kayak specialist Greg Barton fourth and sprinter Carl Lewis fifth.

Added
Griffith-Joyner, nicknamed "Flo Jo," grabbed the world's attention in Seoul with her combination of speed and athletic ability. She set a world record of 21.34 in the 200 metres and added a silver medal to her three golds.

At the Olympic trials, her unorthodox running suits were as much a focus of conversation as her world-record time of 10.49 in the 100 metres.

"It takes me back to Seoul, when I was rewarded for all my hard work," she said. "It makes me feel good to know that people are still thinking about me."

The 29-year-old sprinter from

Los Angeles said she will concentrate on the 400 metres this season in an attempt to set another world record.

"I'm only going to compete for another two years," she said. "I'm going to concentrate on the 400. I feel it's going to take at least a year to learn how to run the race, but I think I can run a 46."

The women's 400-metre world record is 47.60 seconds, held by Marita Koch of East Germany.

Griffith-Joyner also took time to once again deny she ever took steroids. In recent months, Carl Lewis hinted that she may have used the muscle-building drugs. "I've never used steroids," she said. "I've never felt I was because I'm not afraid of hard work. I was very hurt when Carl Lewis made that statement."

Griffith-Joyner has been on a constant treadmill since the summer games, spending less than a month at home since coming back from Seoul. Among her projects have been three commercials for Japanese firms, picking up a host of awards world-wide and pushing her "Flo Jo" doll, which will be on store shelves in May.

"There has been a lot of travel, but for the most part I've enjoyed it," she said. "But two more years and that's it. There are other things I want to do."

Biondi, of Moraga, California, won five gold medals, a silver and a bronze in Seoul. He also set the world record for the 50 metres and became the first man ever to break the 48-second barrier in the 100 metres.

England and France set for Twickenham showdown

LONDON, Feb. 19, (Reuters) — Resurgent England meet Five Nations Rugby Union champions France next month in a game now sure to figure largely in the final destiny of this year's title.

The Twickenham clash on March 4, always a crowd puller, was given added spice yesterday after England overpowered Ireland 16-3 in Dublin and the flamboyant French shattered unhappy Wales 31-12 in Paris.

Unbeaten France lead the table with four points, one clear of England and Scotland. Each has played two games.

Simple
An English success in two weeks' time would leave them with the relatively simple task of beating Wales two weeks later to take the championship for the first time since 1980.

If France win and the Scots lose in Edinburgh on the same day, the French will have lifted or had a share in the title for the sixth time this decade.

England won a tempestuous, bad tempered game in Dublin thanks largely to their forwards. With Dean Richards ever prominent, they wore down the Irish after the break and tries by scrum-half Dewi Morris and Richards himself left the Irish for dead.

Two first-half penalties by Rob Andrew had given England the edge and helped restore the outside half's confidence after a poor display in the draw against Scotland earlier this month.

While the victory lacked the flair of last season's 3-3 rouncing of the Irish or November's 28-19 success against Australia, England manager Geoff Cooke found it hard to conceal his pleasure.

"It was a tremendous performance, one of the best English displays in a long time," he said. "To come here in difficult conditions and play like that was intensely satisfying."

"The forwards were tremendous and Rob Andrew had one of his best games for England."

Moon stops Kobayashi

SEOUL, Feb. 19, (Reuters) — Moon Sung-Kil of South Korea stopped Japanese Chiaki Kobayashi in the fifth round to retain his World Boxing Association (WBA) bantamweight title in Taejeon today.

American referee Larry Rozzadilla moved in 30 seconds before the end of the round as Moon cornered the challenger and caught him with a barrage of unanswered blows.

Pinned
Moon had bloodied Kobayashi's nose in the second round and pinned him on the rope several times in the next three with his formidable straight punches.

The champion carried the fight to Kobayashi and from as early as round two it looked highly unlikely the bout would last the full 12 rounds.

Boutaib beaten

CHIBA, Japan, Feb. 19, (Reuters) — Olympic 10,000 metres champion Ibrahim Boutaib of Morocco was beaten into second place in a 12-km cross country race today.

Victory went to Mexican Arturo Barrios in 34 minutes 28 seconds.

Boutaib finished second in 34:50, while third place went to Mark Nenow of the United States in 35:04.



Aref Essa (centre) presents the trophy to Jamila.

Jamila wins showjumping trophy

JAMILA AL MUTAWA, on Mandingo, won the main Dunhill showjumping championship on Thursday at the Hunting & Equestrian Club's showjumping arena.

Only riders from the Hunting & Equestrian Club competed in this event as the riders from the Military & Police academies were in Baghdad with their horses.

The Dunhill Open Championship was won by Nader Ibrahim, on Hot Joseeb, after a very exciting competition with Ala Hateb on Lichford Diamond. The finishing times of the two saw a dif-

ference of less than one second. The event was attended by Aref Essa, on behalf of Dunhill. He presented the trophies to the winners along with Mohamed Al Shaheen, the general manager of the Hunting & Equestrian Club and Joan Voortman, the Dunhill sales promoter.

This is the third consecutive year that Dunhill has sponsored the showjumping competition in Kuwait. The first competition was held on Feb. 19, 1987 and won by Lamia Al Essa, on Exide.

The second event was won by Jamila Al Mutawa, on Kuwait Bibi, on Feb. 29, 1988.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Blood tests

LAHTI, Finland, Feb 19. (Reuters) Athletes at the 1992 Barcelona Olympics could face blood doping tests after their pioneering use at the World Nordic Skiing Championships here. Prince Alexandre de Merode, president of the International Olympic Committee's (IOC) medical commission, told a news conference in Lahti yesterday that blood tests being used at a major event for the first time were an important step in the fight against blood doping.

Cup qualifier

BANGKOK, Feb 19, (AP) Thailand beat Bangladesh 1-0 today in a qualifying game in the Asian zone of the World Cup soccer tournament, which will be played next year in Italy.

Scanlon wins

PHILADELPHIA, Feb 19, (AP) Bill Scanlon of Dallas moved within a round of gaining a place in the US Pro Indoor Tennis Championships by winning two matches in a qualifying tournament yesterday.

FA Cup

LONDON, Feb 19, (Reuters) Manchester United will play their English Football Association (FA) Cup fifth round replay match against Bournemouth on Wednesday (2000 GMT kick-off).

President's Cup

JAKARTA, Indonesia, Feb 19, (AP) South Korean boxers won all three finals at the conclusion of Indonesia's 12th annual President's Cup amateur boxing championships this evening.

IBF title

HAMPTON, Virginia, Feb 19, (AP) Pernell "Sweetpea" Whitaker, showing no ill effects of a twice-broken left hand that slowed his professional rise, won the International Boxing Federation (IBF) lightweight title yesterday with a 12-round unanimous decision over Greg Haugen.

Taipei marathon

TAIPEI, Taiwan, Feb 19, (AP) Japan's Takayasu Komatsu won the fourth Taipei international marathon today, beating an international field of about 19,500 runners in 2 hours 16 minutes and 56 seconds.

Giant slalom

ASPEN, Colorado, Feb 19, (AP) Sweden's Lars-Erik Eriksson captured his first World Cup victory yesterday, edging West Germany's Markus Wasmeier by three-hundredths of a second in men's World Cup super giant slalom.

Ski races

TAKASUMURA, Japan, Feb 19, (AP) Marc Garcia of France won the slalom event today after a second-place finish in the giant slalom yesterday to clinch the CTV Cup race, the sixth of 10 slalom ski races on Japan's professional circuit.

Virginia Slims

WICHITA, Kansas, Feb 19, (AP) Top seeds Nana Miyagi of Japan and Catherine Suire of France easily advanced yesterday in the qualifying round of the Virginia Slims of Kansas tournament.

NHL games

NEW YORK, Feb 19, (Reuters) Results of National Hockey League (NHL) games played yesterday:
N.Y. Islanders 3 Philadelphia 2
N.Y. Rangers 4 Pittsburgh 3
Boston 4 Calgary 3
Toronto 4 New Jersey 3
Hartford 4 Minnesota 3
Montreal 4 St. Louis 2
Los Angeles 11 Quebec 3

GARRISON REACHES WASHINGTON FINAL

Graf overcomes Zvereva

FAIRFAX, Va., Feb 19. (Reuters) Steffi Graf had what she called an off-day but still came away with a 6-3 6-4 win over fourth-seed Natalia Zvereva of the Soviet Union yesterday to reach the final of the Washington Women's Tennis Tournament.

Graf, the world number one, will face fifth-seeded American Zina Garrison in this evening's final.

Injured

Garrison advanced when unseeded Monica Seles was unable to play because of a sprained right ankle. The 15-year-old Yugoslav injured her ankle during her quarterfinal upset of third-seeded Manuela Maleeva of Bulgaria on Friday.

Graf had lost just three games in her first three matches here but struggled to find her form against Zvereva, whom she beat 6-0 6-0 in the 1988 French Open final.

"I had an off day," Graf said. "My first serve didn't work, my forehands went long. Nothing



Graf follows through after a forehand shot. (Reuters wirephoto)

really worked for me. I knew it would be tough, but I wasn't really concentrating."

The West German, playing in her first tournament since winning the Australian Open in January, raced to a 4-1 lead in the first, but Zvereva changed

strategy and began attacking Graf's backhand and coming to the net at every opportunity.

Zvereva offered valiant resistance in the first set saving two break points in the sixth game and saving four set points in the eighth game.

But Graf belted two aces and a service winner to close out the first set and then rolled to a 3-0 lead in the second set before Zvereva took advantage of uncharacteristic errors from Graf to pull even at 4-4.

The Soviet led Graf 40-15 on her serve in the ninth game, but the top seed swept eight of the last 10 points to break Zvereva and hold her own serve to close out the match.

Seles said her injured ankle hurt too much to take the court for her semifinal match with Garrison.

"I went to practice for 15 minutes and I couldn't run," said Seles. "I'm very disappointed to get to the semifinals and have to give up."

Inter return to winning form

ROME, Feb 19, (Reuters) Internazionale Milan returned to winning form at the top of the Italian First Division today, beating Ascoli 3-1 and extending their lead over Napoli to two points.

Inter, who last week suffered their first defeat this season, 4-3 at Fiorentina, outplayed and outshone the struggling last-placed team.

Inter's first goal came in the 11th minute when midfielder Nicola Berti rounded two defenders and finished with a diagonal shot into the back of the net.

Picking

Fifteen minutes later Italian international striker Aldo Serena scored after picking up a long throw-in by West German Andreas Brehme and in the 59th and Argentine centre forward Ramon Diaz headed home a cross for the third.

Serena's goal brought his total this season to 12, equal with top scorer Carcano of Napoli.

Ascoli's goal came through

former Napoli striker Bruno Giordano in the 72nd minute, when he snatched the opportunity as Inter relaxed.

Napoli, who stood within a point of the leaders last week, drew 1-1 at Atalanta, promoted this season and now playing some fine football to fully warrant their place in the top five of the league.

The Naples side went ahead through captain Diego Maradona, who headed home a cross from Massimo Crippa in the 40th minute.

But in a see-saw match, Crippa brought down midfielder Walter Bonaccini in the Napoli area in the 59th minute and Eligio Nicolini scored from the spot.

Third-placed Sampdoria gained a point on Napoli with a crushing 5-1 defeat of Torino.

Torino's Alvisio Zago opened the scoring in the 15th minute but after that it all went the Genoa side's way with goals from Giuseppe Dossena, Amedeo

Carboni, Gianluca Vialli and two from Roberto Mancini.

A.C. Milan, who have had trouble rediscovering last season's championship winning form, had a fine 2-0 win at Fiorentina with a display of imaginative and fast-moving football.

Defender Angelo Colombo scored first a minute before half time with a strong left-foot shot.

Results	
Atalanta	1 Napoli
Bologna	1 Pisa
Fiorentina	0 Milan
Inter	3 Ascoli
Juventus	0 Como
Lazio	0 Cesena
Lecco	0 Verona
Sampdoria	5 Torino

Standings						
Leading standings after Sunday's matches (tablets under played, won, drawn, lost, goals for, goals against, points):						
Inter	18	13	4	1	31	10
Napoli	18	12	4	2	36	14
Sampdoria	18	9	7	2	25	10
A.C. Milan	18	8	6	4	27	14
Atalanta	18	6	10	2	19	14
Juventus	18	6	8	4	25	20
Fiorentina	18	7	4	7	25	18

Forest trounce Watford

WATFORD, England, Feb 19, (AP) Neil Webb's bad-bounce goal late in the first half started Nottingham Forest on the way to a 3-0 victory over Watford today and a spot in the quarter-finals of English soccer's FA Cup.

Webb's right-foot shot from 20 metres skimmed off the worn Watford turf and hopped over the arms of diving goalie Tony

Coton for a 1-0 lead in the 39th minute of the nationally televised match.

Lee Chapman added the second goal for First Division Forest after 76 minutes, with Brian Laws scoring the final two minutes from the end.

Watford, in third place in Division 2, never mounted much of an attack.

Seven injured

BARNESLEY, England, Feb 19, (AP) Seven people were hospitalized with injuries suffered in a crush of fans in the overcrowded grandstand of an English soccer stadium yesterday, police said.

Authorities said the trouble occurred at one end of the Oakwell Field, where Second-Division Barnsley hosted First-Division Everton in a fifth-round match of England's FA Cup.

Korchnoi threatens to pull out of chess tournament

LINARES, Spain, Feb 19, (Reuters) Soviet emigre Viktor Korchnoi threatened to pull out of an international chess tournament today only hours before it was due to start, in a row over a Soviet referee.

Korchnoi, a chess grand master, said he would abandon the competition unless Viktor Barturinsky of the Soviet Union stood down as the main referee, a senior tournament official said.

Korchnoi, 57, plays for Switzerland where he lives in exile.

Dimitri Bjelica, Barturinsky's deputy, told Reuters two other players in the 12-man tournament would consider pulling out if Korchnoi did not play. They are Jan Timman of the

Netherlands and Nigel Short of Britain.

"Korchnoi said he would play only on condition that Barturinsky is not arbiter and is not present among the players," he said.

Korchnoi and Barturinsky, a close associate of former world champion Anatoly Karpov of the Soviet Union, were involved in many disputes when the former dissident played Karpov in the Philippines in 1978 and in Italy in 1981.

Korchnoi was defeated by Karpov on both occasions.

Karpov, who is also playing at the Linares tournament, had sided with Barturinsky in the dispute, Bjelica said.

Gunnell takes 400m gold

THE HAGUE, Feb 19, (Reuters) Britons Sally Gunnell and Brian Whittle won gold and silver respectively in the women's and men's 400 metres on the second and final day of the European Indoor Athletics Championships today.

Gunnell, fourth in the Olympic 400 metres hurdles, led at the bell and, despite the best efforts of Marina Shomonina of the Soviet Union, held on to win in 52.04 seconds. Shomonina was second in 52.36 with Swiss Anita Protti third in 52.57.

Satisfied

Whittle failed to better his second place in last year's European Championships and had to be satisfied with second place behind Spaniard Cayetano Cornet.

Cornet set a burning pace and reached the bell a metre clear of Whittle. His second 200 was noticeably slower but proved enough to clinch first place in 46.21 seconds. Whittle clocked 46.49 and West Germans Klaus Just was third in 46.80.

Earlier, West German Stephanie Storp upset favourite Heike Haertwig of East Germany to win the women's shot put in the day's first final.

Storp had a best throw of 20.30 while Haertwig threw 20.03 for second place.

Ade Mafe made a triumphant comeback to top international competition when he won the men's 200 metres to give Britain their second gold medal of the afternoon.

Mafe took full advantage of the absence of injured teammate Linford Christie to win a thrilling race in 20.92 seconds ahead of compatriot and world bronze medalist John Regis.

Regis clocked 21 seconds exactly and France's Bruno Marie-Rose, was third in 21.14.

Marie Jose Perek of France won the women's race in 23.21 and West German Dieter Baumann was a clear winner of the men's 3,000 metres in 7:50.43.

Paula Ivan, the Olympic gold medalist and last year's overall women's Grand Prix champion,

won the 1,500 metres with consummate ease.

The powerful Romanian quickly manoeuvred herself into the inside lane and led from start to finish to win in four minutes 07.16 seconds.

The time was nowhere near her own European indoor record of 4:01.2 set earlier this year but was still the second best of the season.

Soviet Marina Lachmeneva made a brief challenge with 100 to run but made no impression in Ivan.

Lachmeneva finished second in 4:07.77 with compatriot Svetlana Kitova third in 4:08.36.

Snatched

Frenchman Herve Philippeau was an unexpected winner of the men's 1,500 when he snatched victory on the line in 3:47.42. Dutchman Han Kulker was second in 3:47.57 and the Soviet Union's Sergei Afanasiev third in 3:47.63.

Spain's Manuel Pancorbo led at the bell but faded badly in the final straight to finish fourth 0.01 second behind Afanasiev.



Becker collects \$75,000 in prize money

Becker brushes aside Volkov in Milan final

MILAN, Italy, Feb 19, (AP) Top-seeded Boris Becker of West Germany disposed of unseeded Soviet Alexander Volkov 6-1 6-2 in today's final of the \$492,500 Stella Artois Indoor Tennis Championships at Milan's Palatrussardi Arena.

Becker, 21, pocketed a first prize of \$75,000 as he captured his first tournament of the Grand Prix circuit since the New York Masters last December.

Qualified

He took one hour and minute to defeat the 21-year-old Soviet, who qualified for his first ever tournament final by upsetting West German Eric Jelen in last night's semifinals.

Becker scored his second victory in Milan in three years showing an overwhelming superiority throughout the match.

He capitalized on his precise serve, on winning volleys and on several unforced errors of his opponent.

The West German, who served four aces and made two double faults, broke Volkov's serve in

the fourth and sixth games of the first set and in the third and fifth games of the second set on his way to an unchallenged victory.

A sold-out crowd of 7,000 had few opportunities of excitement as Becker controlled the play.

Becker reached the finals defeating Haiti's Ronald Agener in the first round, France's Guy Forget in the second round and Swede Christian Bergstrom in the quarterfinals.

He downed third-seeded John McEnroe of the United States in straight sets, 6-2, 6-3, in the semifinals which was dubbed by experts as the real final of the competition.

Volkov's major achievement in Milan was the elimination of fourth-seeded Swiss Jakob Hlasek in the second round.

Volkov, who was born in Kaliningrad, lamented that the Soviet Tennis Federation leaves a small share of bonuses to the players and said "we all are waiting for changes."

He won a second prize of \$37,500 as the tournament's runner-up.

Valencia hold Barcelona

MADRID, Feb 19, (Reuters) Valencia, reduced to 10 men midway through the second half when Jon Garcia was sent off, held Spanish title aspirants Barcelona to a 1-1 draw yesterday.

The point Barcelona collected was enough to lift them level on points with League leaders Real Madrid, who have played two games fewer. Real are away to Real Sociedad on Sunday.

Valencia took the lead after only three minutes when Fernando Gomez struck a volley past goalkeeper Andoni Zubizarreta.

Midfielder Roberto Fernandez should have equalised a few minutes later when he found himself alone in front of goal but succeeded only in hitting the post.

However, veteran striker Julio Salinas made no mistake in the 16th minute when he put up a pass from Aitor Beguiristain and easily beat the Valencia goalkeeper with a raking drive.

Garcia was sent off after collecting his second yellow card for handling just as Valencia coach Victor Espirago was about to substitute him.

Gilbert and Kriek win semifinals

MEMPHIS, Tenn, Feb 19. (Reuters) Brad Gilbert outlasted Kevin Curren and Johan Kriek bounced back from a disastrous second set to win their semifinal matches at the \$415,000 Memphis indoor tennis tournament yesterday.

Gilbert, seeded sixth, eliminated fellow-American Kevin Curren, seeded seventh, 7-6 (7-3) 6-4 and the 16th seeded Kriek, sent fellow-American Michael Chang, seeded 11th, home a 6-1 6-4 loser.

Gilbert, who won here in 1986, was to play Kriek for the championship this evening.

"I got ripped off in the second game by the linesman because he had a couple of baseline shots that were in. I should have been my serve," said Kriek, referring to the second set, which he appeared to give up on after those calls went against him.

Kriek said his only thought was to get the second set over because he knew he eventually would snap out of his doldrums. "Mentally, I was a lot tougher in the third set," said Kriek. "I began hitting some good ground strokes and took a few more chances. I also vollied extremely well in the first set."

Held

With Kriek up 2-1 in the third set, Chang lost his serve and Kriek held his to win.

Kriek's drop volleys, especially in the first set, often caught Chang flat-footed at the baseline. "I tried to mix my lobs in the second set and he began to make more mistakes," Chang said. "But, I was on the defensive all night. I only attacked him a couple of times so he didn't have to think about me attacking."

In the first semifinal, Curren had difficulty with Gilbert's serve and Curren was often out of position and vulnerable to Gilbert's cross-court winners and passing shots.

"I was never able to get penetration on my second serve," Curren said. "But, the key to the match was my forehand return broke down. I had no pressure on his serve."

Czechs triumph

PRAGUE, Feb 19, (Reuters) Czechoslovakia beat Saudi Arabia 1-0 (halftime 0-0) in a Group A World Youth Championship soccer match here today.

Scorer: Radoslav Latal (52nd minute)
Attendance: 30,000.

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